

Hafa Adai!

Bill introduced to name RHC chapel after former lawmaker. **PAGE 2**
2 new hospitalizations related to COVID-19. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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Enormous sinkhole opens up at CUC plant

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. uncovered a sinkhole at one of its wastewater plants located in Sadog Tasi early yesterday morning.

Early yesterday morning, CUC personnel stationed at one of CUC's wastewater plants in Sadog Tasi came in to work and were greeted by a massive sinkhole that completely devoured an entire backhoe. The heavy equipment machinery could not be recovered.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A 50-foot-wide sinkhole appeared at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s wastewater treatment plant in Sadog Tasi yesterday. It has yet to be determined whether the cause of the sinkhole was result of the 5.8-magnitude earthquake that occurred last Monday night.

In a brief conversation with Gary Camacho, CUC's executive director, he is unsure if the 5.8-magnitude earthquake felt

at around 10:56pm last Monday evening may have caused the sinkhole.

See **SINKHOLE** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSTEAD OF INCREASING TAXES

Torres tells Legislature to be creative, give incentives to big corporations

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday that the Legislature should be creative and instead of increasing taxes they should come up with a legislation to give incentives to existing businesses, and to big corporations in order for



Torres

them to invest in the CNMI.

Torres, in response to a question during a KKMP press briefing, said it is not just increasing taxes and that the Legislature should look into how the CNMI to be business-friendly, how to give incentives to big corporations that come in, and how to give incentives to

See **TORRES** on **Page 4**

DESPITE CHALLENGING PAST 2 YEARS

Manibusan: OAG managed to provide substantial legal advice, comments

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Notwithstanding the challenges the past two years brought about because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of the Attorney General continued to provide substantial legal advice to the Executive Branch as



Manibusan

well as provide comments on proposed legislation to the Legislative Branch, according to Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan.

In the OAG's Annual Report that combines two calendar years, 2020 and 2021, Manibusan said the past two years have been challenging be-

See **MANIBUSAN** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The RIHGA Royal Laguna Guam Resort announced the opening of chef Okamoto's elevated chef's table experience.

PAGE 12



ASIA

Sri Lanka's new government plans Tuesday to present an amended budget for the year that slashes expenses and aims to provide relief.

PAGE 13



HOUSEKEEPING

More and more Florida homeowners are seriously considering rooftop solar systems.

PAGE 14



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Bill introduced to name RHC chapel after former lawmaker

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) has introduced a local bill to name the Rota Health Center's Divine Mercy Chapel after former Senate president and RHC director Julian S. Calvo.

Santos' bill proposed to name RHC Divine Mercy Chapel to Julian S. Calvo Divine Mercy Chapel in recognition and appreciation of

Calvo's "exemplary service and significant contributions" to the Municipality of Rota and to the people.

Santos stated in the bill that Calvo was elected senator for the First Senatorial District, or Rota, from 1978 to 1980, and then from 1984 to 1988.

She said Calvo was elected

as floor leader in the 3rd Legislature before becoming the Senate president in the 5th Legislature.

Santos said after an illustrious career as an elected public servant, Calvo held numerous positions in the government such as acting resident director of the Rota Health Center, health consultant for the

Office of the Mayor, resident director for Public Health Services.

Santos said Calvo, along with his wife, the late Lydia Diaz Calvo, envisioned building a chapel at the Rota Health Center to help meet the spiritual needs of the patients.

She said Calvo was instrumental in ensuring that the chapel reached fruition and that the Rota Health Center's patients and visitors have a private place of worship. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A bill has been introduced in the Senate to rename the Rota Health Center's Divine Mercy Chapel to the Julian S. Calvo Divine Mercy Chapel.

\$25K bail set for man accused of forgery

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$25,000 cash bail on a man accused of forging checks of four different companies.

During a bail hearing last Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a \$25,000 cash bail on Kobe Abobo, 22, for charges of forgery, misuse of financial instrument, and theft.

Abobo, who appeared in custody of the Department of Corrections last Monday morning, is accused of forging checks of four Saipan companies and cashing the counterfeit checks at different retail stores in Garapan, Kag-

man, As Lito, San Antonio, and Dandan.

Bogdan, following the hearing, remanded Abobo back to DOC custody and ordered him to return to court on Sept. 7 at 10am for a preliminary hearing. Meanwhile his arraignment was set for Sept. 19 at 9am before Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Assistant public defender Tyler Scott was appointed to represent Abobo while assistant attorney general Frieda Demapan appeared for the government during last Monday's hearing.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety detective Daniel K. Kaipat reported that surveil-

lance footage from retail stores have been acquired showing that Abobo cashed fraudulent checks in the total amount of \$5,436.88.

According to the cashiers, Abobo cashed 10 checks under the names of two other people.

Police also ran the two names listed on the fraudulent checks and found no driver's license issued under those names.

Kaipat stated that he also did a Facebook search for "Abobo" and found the defendant's account where he allegedly admitted to cashing forged checks.

Kaipat stated that he took a screenshot of the post and saved it.

Veterans Affairs' Remy gets tour of CHC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Donald M. Remy meets with the leadership of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. during a recent visit to the CNMI.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. recently welcomed Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Donald M. Remy to tour the hospital and discuss health care matters for CNMI veterans.

The CHCC works closely with the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office to ensure efficient and expedient authorization of health services for veterans and

is working toward bringing more providers to the CNMI to offer more mental health services here in the CNMI for veterans in need. "Treatment is better when our residents are surrounded by their loved ones—when they do not have to be hundreds of miles away from home," said CEO Esther L. Muña.

"We want to take a holis-

tic approach to treating our patients here in the CNMI, including our veterans who are very much deserving of our care."

From streamlining the paperwork process to bringing more mental health services, the CHCC continues to work to improve access to health care for all CNMI residents, including veterans. (*PR*)

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Member **FDIC**

2 new hospitalizations related to COVID-19

A total of 70 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 with two hospitalizations from Aug. 21 to 27, 2022, bringing the CNMI total to 13,120 cases. Of the 70 cases recently identified:

- 1 on Aug. 21, 2022
- 16 on Aug. 22, 2022
- 8 on Aug. 23, 2022
- 4 on Aug. 24, 2022
- 11 on Aug. 25, 2022
- 27 on Aug. 26, 2022
- 3 on Aug. 27, 2022

The CNMI is in COVID-19 Community Level Medium. Guidelines for residents of the CNMI to consider while we are in COVID-19 Community Level Medium have been updated:

- Stay up to date on vaccination, including recommended booster doses.
- Maintain ventilation improvements.
- Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow recommendations for isolation if you have suspect-

ed or confirmed COVID-19.

■ Follow the recommendations for what to do if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19.

■ If you are at high risk of getting very sick, talk with a healthcare provider about additional prevention actions.

■ If you are at high risk of getting very sick, wear a well-fitting mask or respirator when indoors in public.

■ If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for getting very sick, consider testing to detect infection before contact and consider wearing a mask when indoors with them.

■ If you test positive for COVID-19, you should stay home for at least five days and isolate from others in your home as much as possible; wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home and in public; should not go places where you are unable to wear a mask; should not travel; take steps to improve ventilation at home, if pos-

sible; should not share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils; and should monitor your symptoms.

■ If you have an emergency warning sign (like trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.

Residents of the CNMI who test positive for COVID-19 may be eligible for treatment by calling (670) 234-8950, ext. 5068, or reporting their positive test result online at www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting as soon as possible after testing positive. Residents requesting COVID-19 treatment should fill out the medical questionnaire in the form to get assessed as soon as possible. Reporting a positive test result online also allows residents to obtain a certificate of quarantine completion, which employers/individuals may use as documentation of a positive test result.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, you should

get tested for COVID-19. You should isolate yourself if you are sick and suspect that you have COVID-19 but do not yet have test results. If your results are positive, follow the full, updated isolation recommendations at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. People considered high risk (e.g., history of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or cancer, or over the age of 65), immunocompromised persons, or unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals spread the virus at a higher rate than vaccinated individuals, thereby increasing the spread and risk of serious illness toward other

unvaccinated individuals.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised or booster doses for those who are eligible. Register for COVID-19 vaccines at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call (670) 236-8745.

Data show that vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection is waning after the primary series, but protection remains high against severe disease and hospitalization.

As of Aug. 26, 2022, a total of 24,689 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots have been administered; of the eligible population, 53.6% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 1,848 COVID-19 tests were conducted Aug. 21-27, 2022:

- 24 on Aug. 21, 2022

- 477 on Aug. 22, 2022
- 284 on Aug. 23, 2022
- 89 on Aug. 24, 2022
- 368 on Aug. 25, 2022
- 524 on Aug. 26, 2022
- 82 on Aug. 27, 2022

Free COVID-19 testing is available by registering at <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>.

While you wait to get tested or for your test results, stay at home as much as possible and limit your contact with others. Live COVID-19 safe: wear your mask; wash your hands; watch your distance; avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily; be alert for symptoms daily; and get tested for COVID-19.

Of the total cases identified, as of Aug. 27, 2022:

- 13,027 recoveries/53 active cases
- 40 COVID-19-related deaths

A total of 11,955 were identified via community testing and 1,165 through travel testing.

The next COVID-19 report will be around Sept. 5, 2022. (PR)

Power service interruption tomorrow

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption tomorrow, Sept. 1, 2022, as CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance.

The power service interruption will be from 9am to 1pm and the area affected is As Teo (Paluman Apo Loop, Paluman Apo Lane and Paluman Apo Place).

Feeder 4 is the circuit affected and the reason for the power interruption is for CUC maintenance staff to replace two

rotted wooden power poles along Paluman Apo Loop.

No water wells and wastewater facility is affected by the power interruption.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

ARTICLE OF DISSOLUTION OF HANTANG INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT GROUP

Hantang International Investment Group, a CNMI Company/Corporation. Does Hereby Certify Hantang International Investment Group

First: That dissolution was authorized by the company on August 25, 2022.

Second: That dissolution has been authorized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 14, Subchapter A, Section 14.02 of the CNMI Corporation regulations.

Third: That process may be served against the corporation at the following address: PMB 1483 BOX 10002 Saipan MP 96950.

Fourth: That a resolution proposing dissolution has been adopted and approved by the majority of the shareholders.

Fifth: That number of votes can be cast and two votes were cast in favor of this dissolution.

In Witness Whereof, Said, Hantang International Investment Group, has caused this article of dissolution to be signed by the following Board of Directors on the 25th day of August 2022.

Approved By:

/s/ Yong Zhang	/s/ Bilong Li	/s/ Hu Si	Rosalynn K. Blas
President	Vice-president	Treasurer	Secretary

Wanted: Parts / Service counter person, must have knowledge of general heavy equipment parts. 12.00 to 15.00 dollars.

Go to Hawthornehiring.com to apply.

Soroptimist to host 'Journey to the Hill' forum

Soroptimist International of the Northern Mariana Islands is hosting its third bi-annual "Journey to the Hill" forum, which will showcase all of the female candidates seeking election in 2022.

This is not a political fo-

rum. It is just a forum for the female candidates to tell the public about themselves, who were their mentors growing up, what made them decide to want to be a public servant, etc?

The event this year will be

held at the American Memorial Park Theater, starting at 5pm on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022. Light refreshments will be served.

The event is free to the public! Please join us. It is always such a fun night. (PR)

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RFP21-RED005

"MANAGHA ISLAND MASTER CONCESSION OPERATOR"

This RFP21-RED005 IS CANCELLED

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms interested in being the Exclusive Master Concession Operator for service and activities on or relating to Managaha Island.

The revised RFP Information and Instruction Package is available online at www.dpl.gov.mp. Interested proposers may request an RFP packet by email referenced "RFP21-RED005 MANAGHA CONCESSION". Responses to questions will be uploaded in the DPL website no later than November 12, 2021. DPL encourages interested proposers to visit our website for updates.

Sealed proposals must be marked "RFP21-RED005 MANAGHA CONCESSION". One (1) original and seven (7) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the DPL at the address below no later than 4:00pm ChST, November 25, 2021.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

2ND FLOOR, JOSEPH DANAN BUILDING

P.O. BOX 500830, Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No.: (670) 234-3751/52/53

Facsimile No.: (670) 234-3755

Email: info@dmr@dpl.gov.mp or dpl@dpl.gov.mp

A non-refundable Administrative Process Fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) is required upon submission of a proposal and payment must be made through cash or check payable to: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS.

By submitting a proposal, the interested firm agrees to enter into a concession agreement. DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. ALL costs associated with preparing a proposal are entirely the responsibility of proposer. All proposals shall become the sole property of DPL.

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR, DPL Secretary

Responders conclude successful search and rescue exercise on Saipan

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands partners concluded a successful two-day search and rescue exercise (SAREX) in Saipan, Aug. 24.

“There were 40 CNMI participants from six CNMI agencies and eight Coast Guard members. The excellent participation, support, and free exchange of experience and ideas made for a successful endeavor,” said Lt. Henry Dunphy, the chief of emergency management and force readiness at U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam.

This year’s SAREX simulated a response to a capsized kayak off Tanapag Harbor. Participants conducted tabletop discussions on planning, safety, and communications Tuesday followed by search patterns and boat handling offshore on Wednesday in the harbor. Partners from the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Management Ser-



USCG

The U.S. Coast Guard and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands partners conduct a successful two-day search and rescue exercise (SAREX) in Saipan, Aug. 23, 2022.

vices, Commonwealth Port Authority, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Environmen-

tal Quality all provided boats for the on-water activity.

Additional participants included,

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam Joint Rescue Sub-Center and response personnel, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Saipan personnel, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Customs and Biosecurity personnel.

“Exercises like this are a great opportunity to train together, learn from each, and build relationships across a wide spectrum of public safety agen-

cies. Our goal is to continuously improve the way we work together and engage the whole community, because in a search and rescue situation, an efficient response has the potential to mean the difference between life and death,” said Dunphy. **(PR)**

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



USCG

Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam holds SAREXs in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Compact of Free Association States to evaluate notification and response procedures and identify shortfalls in communication and coordination of response during SAR incidents.

SINKHOLE

From Page 1

However, Camacho said he wants to ensure the public that the safety of surrounding residents and CUC personnel are of utmost priority.

Although the cause of the sinkhole has yet to be determined, Camacho said CUC is on top of it and has contacted multiple engineering firms to help them determine the root cause of the sinkhole.

According to an official press release from CUC, the sinkhole that suddenly appeared in the vicinity of the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant and remains under investigation is estimated to be around 50 feet in diameter.

The press release stated that management was made aware of the sinkhole at approximately 11:37am yesterday morning.

Fortunately, all individuals who work at the plant have been accounted for with no injuries to report and the area has been secured.

In addition, no water or sewer services were affected by the sinkhole and all septic haulers have been redirected to an alternative site per proper disposal of wastewater.

CUC advises the public to refrain from entering the premises due to the immediate safety hazard.

Updates will follow as soon as they become available.

Meanwhile, the earthquake that may or may not have caused the 50-foot-wide sinkhole was report-

edly of 5.8-magnitude according to the National Weather Service based off of Tiyan, Guam.

The earthquake occurred about 18 miles south of Rota at 10:56 pm ChST last Monday night with a depth of around 70 miles.

Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said no Tsunami threat to Guam and CNMI according to all available data.

According to a local resident who lives in Garapan, she was sitting in her living room when the earthquake occurred.

“I was reading a book when I suddenly felt my couch shake. At first it was a mere tremble, but it started to progress in strength until I soon realized it was an earthquake. It lasted about a minute and it got really strong toward the end,” she said.

MANIBUSAN

From Page 1

cause of the pandemic and turnover in personnel.

The AG stated in the report, which was released yesterday, that the OAG’s Criminal Division pursued and prosecuted those who violated the criminal laws and protected the citizens from unlawful criminal activities.

He said the OAG worked on many different projects, coordinated and made regular contacts with law enforcement and investigators.

Manibusan said OAG generally worked to improve relationship with other agencies and the community.

“As the chief legal officer of the Commonwealth, I will ensure that the OAG provide the best legal services and advice to our government and justice to the people of the Commonwealth,” Manibusan said.

Deputy attorney general Lillian A. Tenorio said their team of attorneys and staff continued to work hard to protect the interest of the people of the CNMI.

“Overseeing the review of legal issues raised by our agency clients and closely scrutinizing legislation that would affect the livelihood of everyday residents of the Commonwealth; we have succeeded in weathering

through the challenges and struggle of the second year of the pandemic,” Tenorio said.

According to the report, in 2020 OAG provided 28 legislative reviews to the governor and 23 legislative comments, or for a total of 51 reviews and comments.

In 2021, OAG provided 58 legislative reviews to the governor and 69 legislative comments, or for a total of 127 reviews and comments.

In 2020, OAG received 252 requests from departments/agencies, and 37 from the governor, or for a total of 289 requests.

In 2021, OAG received 530 requests from departments/agencies, and 42 from the governor, or for a total of 572 requests.

In 2020, OAG served 70 agencies, reviewed 507 procurement contracts, reviewed 321 personnel contracts, made 304 communications to departments/agencies, and issued 8 communications to private sector. This brings to a total of 1,210 agency services, reviews, and communications.

In 2021, OAG served 70 agencies, reviewed 711 procurement contracts, reviewed 956 personnel contracts, made 375 communications with departments/agencies, and issued 53 communications to private sector. This brings to a total of 2,165

agency services, reviews, and communications.

With respect to collections, in 2020 and 2021, OAG collected \$1,400 and \$2,275 from notary public services, respectively. In 2020 and 2021, OAG collected \$13,700 and \$16,300 from apostilles and certifications issued.

Regarding civil case statistics, in 2020, OAG handled 14 new cases, 34 active cases, and disposed 4. In 2021, OAG handled 12 new cases, 38 active cases, and disposed 9.

Pertaining to appellate cases before the CNMI Supreme Court, in 2020 OAG handled 1 new case, 3 active cases, made 1 oral arguments, disposed 4, and awaiting 1 pending decision. In 2021, OAG handled 2 new cases, 2 active cases, and 2 dispositions.

With respect to cases before the U.S. District Court for the NMI, in 2020, OAG handled 2 new cases, 6 active cases, and disposed 2 cases. In 2021, OAG handled 3 new cases, 7 active cases, and disposed 3 cases.

In the U.S. 9th Circuit, OAG disposed one case in 2020.

In criminal cases, there were 3,243 and 3,568 in 2020 and 2021 on Saipan, respectively. There were 38 and 107 in 2020 and 2021 on Tinian, respectively. On Rota, there were 72 and 60 in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

TORRES

From Page 1

new and existing airlines.

House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (D-Saipan) disclosed in discussing the budget bill during Saturday’s session that the committee had decided to add two provisions that would increase taxes just for the Fiscal Year 2023 to address the funding shortfall for health-care particularly the medical referral.

Manglona, who is the author of the budget bill, said the committee proposed to increase taxes on tobacco and sugar sweetened beverages for the fiscal year.

But Torres said Friday that he has not seen the language in the budget bill that refers to such proposal to increase taxes.

Torres said just increasing taxes is not going to help as much, as what the CNMI need is to increase the economy.

“And by doing that we should start giving incentives to airlines,” said the governor, adding increasing taxes is one step to increase the revenue, however, the money still circulates in the CNMI.

Torres said giving an incentive to big corporation to come in, that will bring in new money, and perhaps create new and additional jobs.

“That’s one that I ask the Legislature, to please look into giving tax incentives to new airline, or even existing airlines if they are able to add additional flights. Or new hotels, new restaurants, something in that matter that bring in new revenue and create jobs to the CNMI,” he said.

The governor noted the administration recently launched the \$10-million Building Optimism, Opportunities and Stability Together or BOOST Program.

He said BOOST Program will create a whole new section in the economy here in the CNMI.

“That’s what I encourage the Leg-

islature. Instead of just increasing taxes, and then say, oh this is supported by the administration,” Torres said.

The governor said the Legislature should create something that they can say this is coming from the House, and that he will congratulate them.

“Because I wish I can just go out and just draw an incentive to new airlines or existing airlines with additional flights,” he said.

Torres urged the Legislature to give incentive to corporation so that they can invest here in the CNMI.

“Because every dollar of investment equates back to our community—new employment, higher salary, I mean new product for other business to participate,” he said.

Torres said other investors around the region and nation would look into the CNMI and find that this is the time to invest.

He said United Airlines is now flying back the Japan market and Marianas Southern Airways is not only a new airline, but it has new airplanes.

“For the company to have four or five airplanes, yet all those airplanes are on the way here to the CNMI to service the Marianas, that’s a great and huge accomplishment for all of us to be right in the first airplane,” he said.

Torres said it just show that the CNMI needs the business partners and that there is a need to give incentives to them.

He congratulated Marianas Southern Airways for officially launching flights to all three islands, Saipan-Tinian, Saipan-Rota, and Saipan-Guam.

The governor asked residents to be patient as the new airline continues to learn about the region, the travel schedules, and travel priorities and so forth.

Torres said Marianas Southern Airways has very good intention and the right partners.

He looks forward for their additional business proposal in bringing in more tourists from other countries to add into the diversification of the tourist destination here in the CNMI.

IT'S ON WITH TACOMATHON

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Church makes face mask donation to FSM

As the Federated States of Micronesia opened their borders last Aug. 1, a face mask requirement was instituted for all the FSM. Masks are in short supply in the FSM.

A request for face masks was submitted to elder William H.K. Davis of the Micronesia Guam Humanitarian Department. The leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on the islands of the FSM requested them for

their members. Additionally, Chuuk Department of Education Director Jason Reiong requested 12,000 masks for their students and faculty.

The face masks donation was approved and sent via DHL. Chuuk District received 2,500 masks, Pohnpei stake received 2,500 masks, Kosrae district received 500 masks and the Department of Education in Chuuk received 12,000 masks.

District president Rodolfo Gacayan received the face masks sent to Chuuk. He held a district meeting inviting all the branch leaders as well as humanitarian missionary couple elder and sister Green, who are living in Chuuk. The face masks were distributed to each branch leader for their members.

Gacayan expressed his gratitude saying, "We're so thankful for the Heavenly Father for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Elder and sister Green with Elinora, Chuuk H.S. administration, and Chuuk Department of Education Director Jason Reiong.



Chuuk Department of Education Director Jason Reiong poses with the boxed of donated face masks.

receiving the mask donation for Chuuk. This donation can help the members and the people of Chuuk to practice wearing a face mask."

Jason Reiong received his shipment of six boxes of face masks at the DOE where he will distribute them to the students and faculty. Elder and sister Green visited with Jason and took some photos. Jason said "I got six boxes with the 12,000 face masks. I was not expecting it to be so quick. Thank you so much, Elder and Sister Green, and Elder Bill Davis!"


This donation from the humanitarian department in Guam gives church members, students, and faculty in Chuuk the face masks they need to meet the FSM's



Elder and sister Green with Chuuk Department of Education director Jason Reiong.

requirement, keeping the people on the islands safe as they open their borders to the outside world after almost two years of being

closed. As of the writing of this article, Chuuk and Yap are free of COVID-19 in the community and hope to remain so. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-22-032

SAN ANTONIO WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way; installation of gate valve assembly, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly, flush hydrants; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-032, San Antonio Water Line Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 15, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond **must be** executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.


All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer – via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician Senior – via email at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE


NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, Vicente D. Palacios, an immediate family member of Ray Demapan Palacios, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Palacios is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Thursday, September 2, 2022.

Dated this 19th day of August, 2022.


JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on August 31, 2022 at 9:30 a.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes from July 20, 2022
- II. Public Comment(s)**
- III. Committee Reports**
 - a. Committee on Awards
 - b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
 - c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
 - d. Committee on Program and Development
 - e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative, and Community Affairs
- IV. Administrator's Report**
- V. Chairman's Report**
- VI. Old Business**
 1. Proposal to increase the grant-in-aid for on-island and online recipients the match the award of off-island recipients, upon availability of funds.
- VII. New Business**
 1. Fall 2022 application status
 2. Proposal to extend the financial assistance to 3 years for recipients pursuing an associate's degree within the healthcare field.
 3. Discussion to temporarily suspend awards for advanced degrees.
- VIII. Executive Session**
- IX. Miscellaneous Matters**
- X. Next Meeting**
- XI. Adjournment**

/s/ Oscar M. Babauta,
Chairman, Board of SHEFA Directors

Palau VP delegation quarantined in Taiwan after 2 get virus

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Palau's vice president and her eight-member delegation have been quarantined in Taiwan after two of them tested positive for the coronavirus.

Palau is one of the 14 countries still maintaining formal relations with Taiwan, which China claims as its own and has relentlessly sought to isolate internationally by depriving it of diplomatic partners.

Vice President J. Uduch Sengebau Senior arrived for an official five-day visit on Saturday and was due to meet with President Tsai Ing-wen.

The delegation from the Pacific nation had PCR tests on Sunday, with two of them positive for the virus that causes COVID-19.

The conditions of their quarantine remain unclear. Taiwan generally mandates several days of quarantine in a hotel or private home.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said their schedule has been suspended for the time being. In a statement, the ministry gave no details on who in the

delegation had tested positive or how long they would remain in Taiwan, but said it would "continue to provide them with the proper care."

Taiwan has gradually relaxed its COVID-19 restrictions, but testing and quarantine restrictions for foreign arrivals remain in place.

Upon her arrival, Senior, who is also her country's justice minister, said she looked forward to "strengthening bilateral relations with the Taiwan government and the Ministry of Justice in Taiwan, in the areas of justice, maritime security and public safety."

"The Republic of Palau and the Republic of Taiwan share similar beliefs in human rights, justice, the rule of law," Senior said.

Taiwan this week is also hosting Foreign Minister Mario Bucaro of Guatemala, another of its dwindling number of diplomatic allies.

The visits come amid heightened tensions between Taiwan and China, following



In this photo released by the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Palau's Vice President J. Uduch Sengebau Senior, front left, walk with Alexander Tah-ray Yui, Taiwan's vice minister of foreign affairs after her arrival at the Taoyuan airport near Taipei, Taiwan on Saturday, Aug 27, 2022.

China's threatening military exercises and missile launches staged in retaliation for a trip to the island earlier this month by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

With a population of just over 18,000, Palau has recorded 5,348 cases of COVID-19 and six deaths. Taiwan, with 23 million people, has reported more than 5 million cases and close to 10,000 deaths.

Quarantine rules remain flexible and reports say the government plans to further relax them beginning Thursday.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/THC-020A
"ADDENDUM"
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT/MODIFICATION OF MANDATORY SITE ASSESSMENT

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPT. 26TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"DESIGN SERVICES FOR TINIAN HEALTH CENTER (THC) GENERATOR REPLACEMENT"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/LABORATORY-024

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPT. 5TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LABORATORY EXPANSION PROJECT
(Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring and Construction)
for CHC Hospital / Laboratory Department

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-CHCC/WIC-025

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPT. 5TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR WIC'S MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM UPGRADE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIIMPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
BUS PARKING CANOPY REPAIRS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for repairs to the bus parking canopy repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-SA-004-22.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at cpa.receptionist@opticom.com.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements shall be submitted to Ms. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office, by no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Wednesday, September 21, 2022.**

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/S/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date 8/24/2022

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-DCCA-NAP-42200162

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"REDEMPTION CONTRACT FOR FY 2023
FOR NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. PEGGY HARUO VIA PHONE AT 670-237-2844 OR EMAIL AT peggry.haruo@cnminap.gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
DCCA SECRETARY

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@opticom.com
Website: <https://cnmiports.com>

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2022

Opening date: August 15, 2022
Location: SAIPAN
Positions: (1) ARFF General Maintenance
(1) ARFF Mechanic II
(1) ARFF Mechanic III

Closing date: September 02, 2022
SALARY
PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr. to \$13.70/hr.)
PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr. to \$15.85/hr.)
PL 12/1 to 12/12 (\$12.42/hr. to \$21.25/hr.)

Location: TINIAN
Positions: (2) General Maintenance I

SALARY
PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr. to \$13.04/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 02, 2022.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
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WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIIMPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK
PORT OF SAIPAN
CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022
(CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Date RFP Package becomes available	August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM)
Date of RFP briefing meeting	September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM)
Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2022
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date 8/26/2022

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Biden cancels billions in student debt. Now the hard work

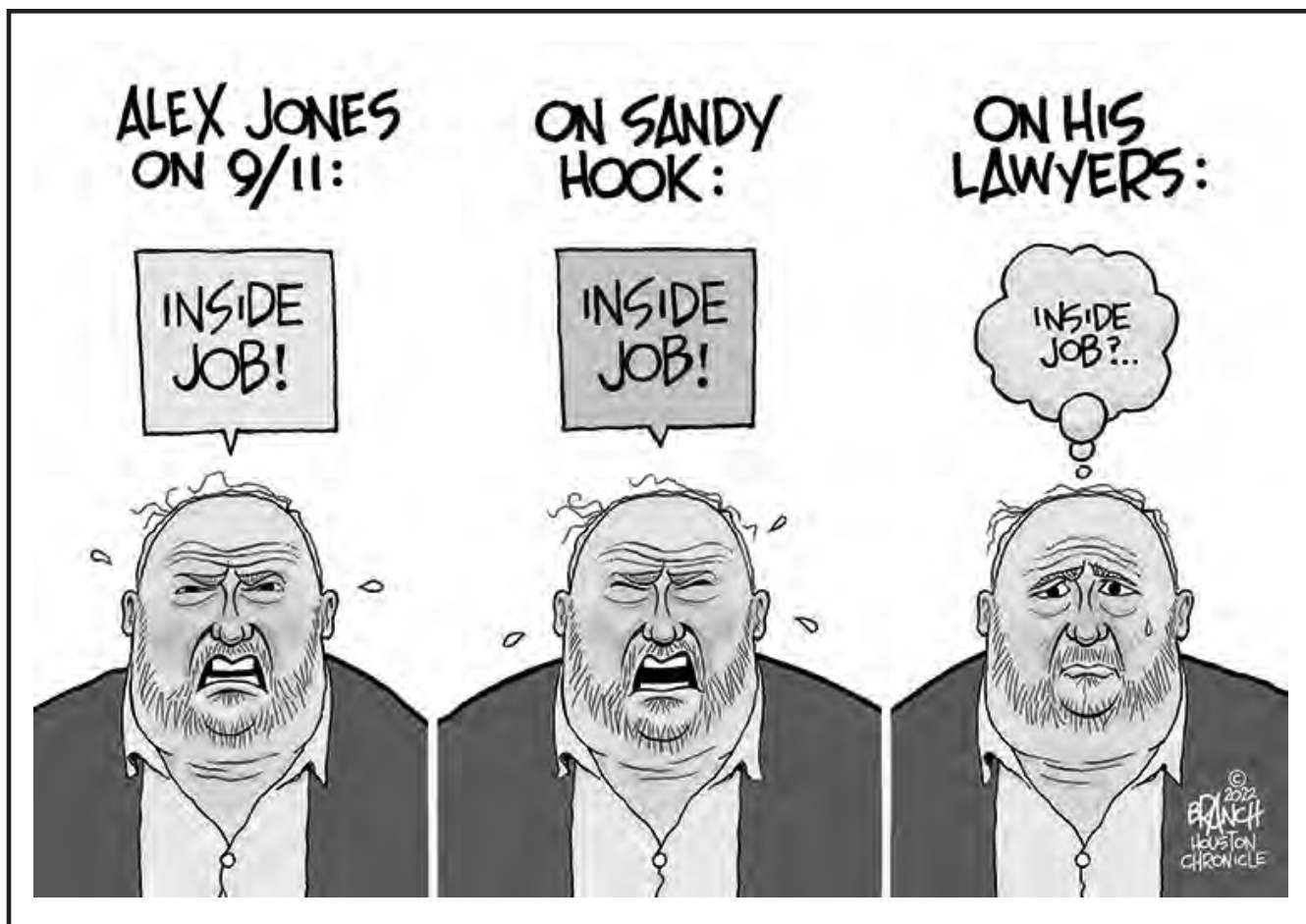
President Joe Biden's announcement Wednesday that the federal government would cancel billions in student debt promises relief for millions of Americans. While not as rich as some proponents wanted, the package is a costly and generous lift that offers many a fresh start. Canceling debt like this also has downsides and isn't popular in many circles. But what is done is done. Now the administration will need to help applicants navigate the process and hold loan servicers responsible for managing their accounts.

Under the program, the White House will forgive up to \$10,000 of federal student debt for borrowers who make less than \$125,000 per year, or households making under \$250,000. Recipients of a Pell Grant, a form of federal student aid targeted at low-income families, could qualify for an additional \$10,000 in relief, provided they met the same income requirements. Biden also announced a four-month extension to the student loan moratorium, which pauses payments on federal student loans until Dec. 31. The moves deliver on Biden's 2020 campaign promise to cancel a minimum of \$10,000 of federal student loan debt per person.

This is welcome news for many of the 2.6 million Floridians with federal student loans. Borrowers here have the fifth-highest debt burden in the nation, owing more than \$38,000 in federal loans on average. One-third of borrowers owe less than \$10,000 and could see their student debt wiped out entirely. For many, the forgiveness plan is a game-changer in a state that is becoming increasingly unaffordable.

It's a shame the administration raised so many hopes but offered so few critical details. While federal student loan debt, including PLUS loans, are eligible, private loans are not. Some Federal Family Education Loan debt may also go uncovered. The Department of Education will set up an application process by the end of the year, which should inform borrowers whether they are eligible for "automatic" relief or whether more paperwork is involved. Borrowers are also encouraged to contact their loan serving agencies to resolve any questions and ensure that any credits are properly applied. This plan is still a work in progress. The administration needs to keep the application process simple, and ensure that loan servicers are being responsive and accurately handling their clients' claims.

Of course, this one-time debt cancellation doesn't erase the bigger problem of borrowers carrying high interest rates on outstanding student loans, which can cause these debts to balloon over time. Biden also announced Wednesday he is proposing a new plan to substantially reduce the monthly payments for student loans among lower- and middle-income borrowers. The proposal would reduce payments on

See **BIDEN** on Next Page

Guam and the Northern Marianas representatives to the United States Congress

The next congressman or congresswoman to represent Guam and/or the Northern Mariana Islands will have tremendous opportunities to impart a local Chamorro voice in the American national legislature. Next year, 2023, will be an epic year of ongoing American change and because we are part of the American imperial landscape, we too continue to have tremendous opportunities to positively affect and influence change through determined leadership and incisive thinking.

Our Mariana Islands and Micronesia is one key strategic center of gravity between the United States and China. This is so because the geographical location of our Deep Blue continent region, its sheer size and distance, makes it the most attractive region for the U.S. and China to jockey for power, position, political warfare, and advantage over time.

Our Deep Blue Ocean continent is also a bedrock of natural resources ranging from fish stock to seabed minerals and to living Pacific Islander cultural and linguistic diversity.

Tied to the hip

Our fellow Pacific Island nation citizens, especially in Micronesia, are tied to the hip of the United States for better or for worse. While past events have brought about monumental change, suffering, danger, and opportunity, we presently have emerging opportunities to engage both the United States and China once again on matters most consequential to our Deep Blue continent and our planet.

Stepping up to the plate

Micronesia and the Western Pacific is one area of the world where the U.S., China, and other powerful nations can exercise influence, engage in military maneuvers and political warfare across all domains that require relatively little, if any work, to secure diplomatic permissions for transiting purposes since our continent is ocean based.

Presently, the United States continues to bank on the idea that the Compacts of Free Association, with all the economic support and external security, will be a major solution toward ensuring long term economic, political, and perhaps environmental security of our Deep Blue continental civilizations.

As Deep Blue continent civilizations and peoples, we have the collective will and incentive structures to move towards a more robust cycle of engagement with today's superpowers to give greater voice to our long-standing and legitimate concerns. Rising sea levels, the warming of our oceans, and altered weather patterns are just some of the reasons to be alarmed into taking on

RICK'S COLUMN

By **RICK ARRIOLA PEREZ**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rick Arriola Perez is a U.S. military veteran who has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bank of Hawaii, and the government of Guam. He holds several degrees including ones from University of California Los Angeles and the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Rick is passionate about national security and foreign affairs in the Pacific Asia region and runs a blogsite called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For more information, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

renewed interest and actions now and in the future.

Sablan, Moylan, and Won Pat Borja will have much to contend with

This midterm election cycle, both at local and federal levels, is odd for a variety of reasons. Nationally, Mr. Biden has been able to pass major climate, cost of living, and infrastructure improvement legislation in a period which continues to test the political will and collaborative efforts of both the democrats and the republicans. Locally, the outcomes of the congressional races have not been too surprising.

The next congressional representatives might be able to press the American national government to guarantee mandatory spending packaging when it comes to the Compacts of Free Association and motivate the Freely Associated States to put forth clearer roadmaps as to what specifically they will need (again) moving forward. There is nothing stopping all future congressional representatives to ask the Biden administration for formal regularly sequenced updates on progress made with regards to the Compact discussions.

In addition, our Chamorro people haven't yet received compensation for exposures to radiation derived from the over 100 atomic bomb tests sponsored by the United States that took place in Micronesia from the 1940s up through the 1960s. This challenge has remained unresolved for quite some time.

The next congressional representatives may also find it worth their while to participate in a future congressional delegation

See **GUAM** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Violent crime is spiking in Trump's California. These counties blame everyone but themselves

Homicides are up across California and the blame experts are aiming their outrage at the usual suspects.

Gavin Newsom. Propositions 47 and 57 for lowering penalties on nonviolent crimes and facilitating early prison releases. Progressive district attorneys. Democrats.

But deeper in the data, released Thursday by state Attorney General Rob Bonta, is a more complicated story, one that defies those easy narratives of a failed California with its recklessly unsafe efforts at criminal justice reform. The biggest risks for homicides came in conservative counties with iron-fist sheriffs and district attorneys, places where progressives in power are nearly as common as monkeys riding unicorns.

Kern County leads the locales where your chance of being murdered is greatest — with a homicide rate of nearly 14 people per 100,000, compared with about 6 per 100,000 for the state as a whole and 8.5 per 100,000 in Los Angeles County. The number of people annually murdered (a legal term that implies conviction, but you get my point) in Kern has nearly doubled since 2015 to 124 lives last year.

Former President Donald Trump, who legitimately lost the 2020 election, won nearly 54% of the count in Kern. Trump sycophant and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy also prevailed handily in Kern, raking in 64% of votes. My colleague Gustavo Arellano profiled Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood, pointing out that he's a dying breed of old-school lawman, not one to take the soft approach.

Merced County had the second-highest homicide rate at 9.5 per 100,000 residents. Merced is a political mixed bag, as a "blue wave" of Bay Area refugees and political converts have turned this agricultural stronghold into a nearly equally split county, but one where Democrats are far from a shoo-in to win any election.

Third place goes to Tulare County, running from Delano in the south to a bit north of Visalia, where people were violently

killed at a rate of 8.8 per 100,000. Trump took nearly 53% of the vote there in 2020, and McCarthy, who also represents part of the area, took nearly 59%. Recently, after two suspects in a fentanyl bust were released on bail, Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux told Fox News that "California's system of justice is failing us all."

It's safe to say that none of these counties coddle their criminals—presidential leanings don't define policy, but they are an indicator of how local politicians and law enforcement think about and handle crime. And yet, not only do these counties share the same problems of dark-blue Los Angeles and San Francisco — poverty, homelessness, drugs — they are doing worse on homicides. That's true, even given the fact that a few killings in less-populated counties can mean big jumps in year-to-year statistics.

At the other end of the spectrum is Contra Costa County, which has been successful at beating state averages on crime and has one of the state's only (along with L.A.'s George Gascón) openly progressive district attorneys, Diana Becton.

Despite an unapologetic focus on "moving beyond a singular narrative of incarceration being the answer to everything," she told me, the county is holding its own when it comes to safety.

Contra Costa's murder rate increased slightly from last year — but remains around 4 per 100,000 residents.

So the idea that progressive policies lead to more violent crime just doesn't pan out, any more than the idea that getting tough dissuades criminals.

Where does that leave us in understanding the numbers?

There are two things we should talk about: guns and NIMBYism.

First, we are swimming in guns. Drowning in them. Becton told me there are now "more guns in the hands of people than I think in history."

The vast majority of our homicides and aggravated assaults involve guns — in 1,734 out of 2,361 homicides recorded in California in 2021, the weapon was a gun, a 33% increase in firearm-related homicides since 2012. That means about 75% of the time when a Californian is murdered, the cause of death is a bullet. So-called ghost guns, legal guns, automatics, shotguns. You name it, someone committed a crime with it.

Save me your 2nd Amendment emails. I have nothing against legal, responsible gun ownership. But a lot of people who shouldn't have firearms — because they are felons, domestic abusers, have mental health issues, or are getting ready to open fire on a large crowd, for example—have them anyway. We make it easy.

Becton thinks we need to sit down and prioritize the gun problem, and I couldn't agree more. Yes, cops take guns away every day and we have a Armed and Prohibited Persons System meant to help remove illegal guns from about 24,500 people who legally purchased weapons but are no longer allowed to keep them.

Bonta said Thursday that his office is overseeing \$10 million in grants to sheriffs to help confiscate those guns, but those efforts are like spitting on a forest fire.

We also have a problem with our criminal justice reforms. Just not the ones guys like Sheriff Boudreaux target.

Racist before reforms and still, our system has locked up people of color at alarming rates, while criminalizing health issues including addiction and mental illness. So the changes we've put in place to create equity, fairness and compassion are vital to reimagining a paradigm that for too long crushed not just people, but communities.

Where we've failed is in supporting and implementing those reforms. When someone is released from prison, diverted from jail or is the victim of a crime, that can't be the end of the story.

What we lack is capacity to create stability for them — addiction treatment, mental health support, housing, job training, social workers. It's the same safeguards we lack in other crises such as homelessness, all made worse by the pandemic, crushing nearly everyone under its stress and pain and exhausting the resources we do have.

"Too much, too fast, too little support" is how Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig describes what's happened with

By **ANITA CHAMBRIA**
Los Angeles Times



California's efforts at criminal justice reform. He's also president of the California District Attorneys Assn., and a middle-of-the-road kind of guy when it comes to justice.

"It doesn't mean we have to send everyone back to prison, but it means we have to do the tweaks to get people into programs like Care Court," he said, calling out Newsom's plan for a system of civil courts to help those with severe mental illness.

But I'm starting to think we don't want to change as much as we say we do.

Most Californians are liberal at a distance, but bring it too close and it just doesn't make sense here. There may be no better example than the San Francisco neighbors who last year successfully blocked the conversion of a 131-room boutique hotel into permanent supportive housing for people who were previously homeless.

Or what happened a few years ago in Bakersfield when the local hospital protested allowing homeless people to stay in a hotel in an industrial area because it was too close to an employee parking lot.

That intolerance has created an impossible-to-untangle mess of crime, housing, mental health and addiction that endlessly churns around us — all at heart different angles of poverty, race and inequity. People of color are disproportionately among the ranks of our homeless, incarcerated, mentally ill and addicted, and the vast majority of murder victims are Black and Latino.

We are faced with either accepting the solutions really are in our own backyards or embracing the so-called pendulum swing back to solutions that sweep the impoverished behind bars where we don't have to look at them. Guess how that plays out in conservative places like Kern, Merced and Tulare where poor people of color have long been viewed as suspect, and where the poverty rate hovers near 20%, significantly higher than the state average of about 12%?

Everything is not bleak, thankfully. The figures released this week are outdated, according to Mike Romano, director of the Three Strikes and Justice Advocacy Projects at Stanford Law School. Newsom appointed Romano as chair of California's Committee on the Revision of the Penal Code in 2019.

Romano and his team conduct nearly real-time tracking of available crime data in California, so he's already looking at 2022. So far, he's seen homicides trend down or stay flat in some of our biggest cities.

Fresno, he said, has seen a huge drop of 29% so far this year. Oakland is down 6%. Los Angeles and San Francisco have remained about even year-over-year. Long Beach and San Diego have ticked up. Other crimes, including robbery, burglary, shoplifting and arson, were all flat or down across the state in 2021, he said.

Overall, violent crime in California is the lowest it's been since the 1970s, and has been that way for at least 10 years. California has the second-lowest homicide rate of any of the 10 largest states after New York, less than half the rate of states including Illinois, Georgia and Ohio.

We are significantly safer than most other big states, even after a decade of major changes to our carceral system.

So criminal justice reform may be the easiest focus of blame for why some violent crime is up.

But it turns out guns really do kill people, regardless of what the right likes to argue.

And so does NIMBYism, though it's an uncomfortable culprit to name.

GUAM

From Page 8

visit to Taiwan. Taiwan is a place where the Chinese are perfecting their ability to pressure and coerce Taiwan with political and military style tactics. However, should a hot war commence, China could readily decide to also attack Andersen Air Force Base or Big Navy Guam or Tinian or Saipan.

The next congressional representatives may also find it worth their while to get a Regional Veterans Administration Medical Center designed and constructed in Guam. Our veterans remain challenged and relatively underserved compared to veterans who reside in areas such as Northern Virginia or elsewhere, where full and complete medical and mental health services can be received on a moment's notice.

Guam and the Northern Marianas will be well served by any of these candidates currently running for a seat in the American national legislature. God knows our Marianas Islands chain needs strong and assertive representation in Washington, D.C.

BIDEN

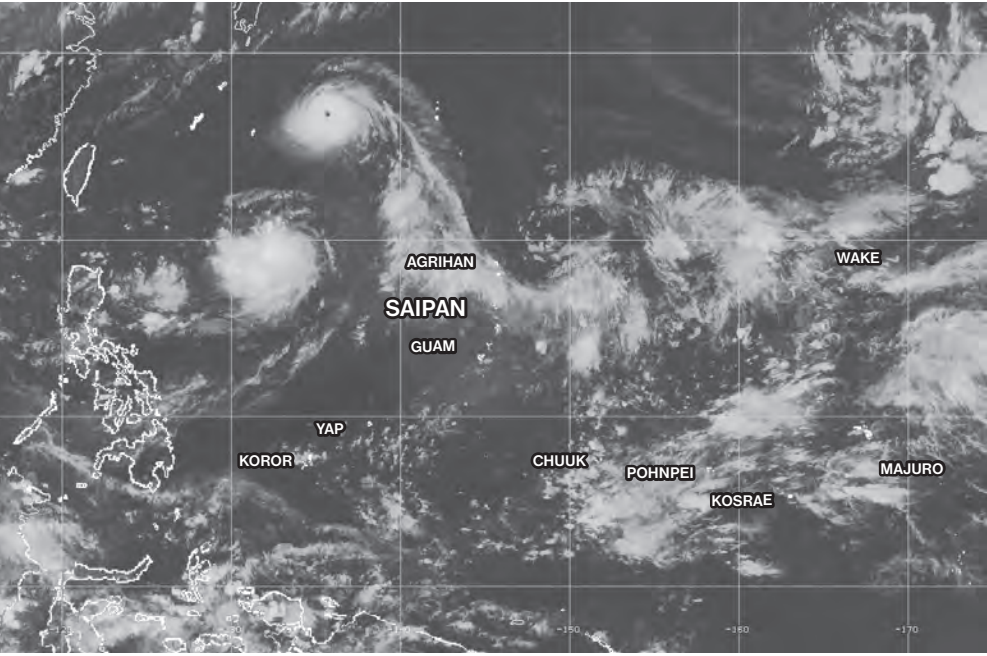
From Page 8

undergraduate loans to no more than 5% of a person's discretionary income, down from 10% under the most recent income-driven payment plan. The new plan would also shield more household income for borrowers, meaning that those earning the equivalent of a \$15 hourly wage won't have to make a monthly loan payment.

Biden's plan would cost the government — yes, you — nearly \$330 billion over the next 10 years. That's not cheap. It's also no substitute for broader strategies to make college (and student debt) more affordable. But Biden has committed to student loan forgiveness, so the administration must at least guarantee that this program succeeds. That will require being clear and helpful to borrowers and holding loan servicers to high expectations.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy		Scattered showers. Partly sunny		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	77°	87°	77°	88°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:08 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies and gentle trade winds are present across the Marianas this morning. Radar shows scattered showers, and one or two lightning strikes were noted earlier east of Saipan-Tinian. At the buys, combined seas are low at only about 2 and a half feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:14 AM	8:32 PM	-
Wednesday	9:04 AM	9:09 PM	-
Thursday	9:57 AM	9:50 PM	-
Friday	10:52 AM	10:34 PM	-
Saturday	11:51 AM	11:23 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	60° / 48°	
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 62°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	89° / 81°	
Honolulu	Sunny	87° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	74° / 59°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	88° / 67°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	61° / 45°	
Miami	Isolated Thunderstorms	89° / 80°	
New York	Cloudy	87° / 72°	
Osaka	Cloudy	94° / 80°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	83° / 62°	
Busan	Rain	79° / 72°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	88° / 69°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 71°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°	
Seoul	Showers	82° / 64°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	93° / 68°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:11 AM	Low Tide	0.71	
9:50 AM	High Tide	1.86	
4:13 PM	Low Tide	0.59	
10:16 PM	High Tide	1.95	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS					
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022					
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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DOI's Cantor visits American Samoa

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor yesterday completed her first official visit to American Samoa where she met with area leaders, emphasized the agency's commitment to the people of American Samoa, and announced key investments from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

During her visit, Cantor met with Gov. Lemanu Mauga, Speaker Savali Talavou Ale, members of the territory's executive cabinet, Senate and House of Representatives, the Justices of the High Court of American Samoa, as well as the Matai (traditional chiefs), and U.S. Geological Survey experts

who monitor and survey recent seismic activity in the territory.

Cantor also announced \$389,025 in grant funding provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that will be used to clean up the second largest wetland ecosystem on Tutuila and replant more than 1,000 mangrove seedlings and riparian tree species across more than 20 acres of degraded wetland areas and 8 acres of degraded mangrove forests. This restoration area includes acreage impacted during the 2009 Tsunami. The funding will support the distribution of 20,000 agricultural crop, fruit trees, and multi-

purpose native seedlings that are salt water-resistant and can better withstand future natural disasters.

The project is in collaboration with the American Samoa Department of Agriculture, the Office of the First Lady of American Samoa and the School Garden Initiative, the Office of Samoan Affairs, the American Samoa Department of Education and 54 local villages.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$1.4 billion for ecosystem restoration efforts over the next five years, building on proven projects, programs and partnerships

that conserve our cherished wildlife and natural resources critical to supporting local economies, creating jobs and strengthening communities.

To date, \$40 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced for American Samoa. This year alone, the territory will receive more than \$8 million for transportation to invest in roads, bridge-



Cantor

es, public transit, ports and airports and nearly \$31 million for clean water. More projects will be added in the coming months, as funding opportunities become grant awards and formula funds become available.

While in American Samoa, Cantor visited the Lyndon Baines Johnson Hospital, the StarKist cannery, and the Visitor's Center of the National Park

of American Samoa. She also had the opportunity to attend mass in Sailele Village followed by a traditional Sunday village brunch.

DOI conserves and manages the nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper. **(PR)**

PROPERTY FOR SALE



LOT NO. 001 G 31

NOTICE OF AUCTION & SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres (the auctioneer or his designee), for and on behalf of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, will sell at auction, to the highest bidder, on September 23, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Kondot Lane, Kagman I, Saipan Municipality, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described further as follows:

Lot No. 001 G 31, contains an area of 820 square meters as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded on March 18, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. **Minimum Bid.** Minimum bid for the sale of Lot No. 001 G 31 is **Seventy-Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars and 00/100 (US \$72,455.00)**. All bids shall be in writing and constitute a formal offer from each bidder. Bids may be submitted in advance for said property. Bids may be submitted in advance in writing for the foregoing property. The minimum bid shall be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be submitted in person (at the auction), via email, or in writing by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com by **8:00 a.m., Chamorro Standard Time on the auction date**. Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid identification card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). A written bid shall include the bidder's signature, with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information. The winning bidder shall be the person to whom the property is confirmed if the bid is accepted. The CNMI Retirement Fund assumes no liability for any errors or omissions as to a bidder's name or identification if that information is not correctly indicated on the bid form. **Please contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for a bid form.**

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A non-refundable guarantee deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) day of the auction sale by the winning bidder, no later than 4:00 pm on that date, by payment to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres. The remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) calendar days from the auction sale. If the tenth calendar day falls on a weekend then the balance shall be due that Monday after the tenth calendar day. **All payments shall be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check.** Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the bidder's rights, title, and interest in the money shall revert to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund reserve the right to change any of the terms conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

5. **Quitclaim Deed to Winning Bidder:** All bidders are notified that the NMI Retirement Funds, the Judgment - Creditors, shall issue a Quitclaim Deed to the Winning Bidder.

6. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are informed and cautioned to inspect the title and property including performing any title research, property inspection, boundary inspection, easement research, and encroachment research on the subject property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranties including but not limited to habitability or fitness for purpose. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the property to be sold at auction are available upon request for review in advance of the auction date.

DATED this 14th day of August 2022.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer for
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund

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ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter :
of the Estate of :
MARIA ANA LIMES : CIVIL ACTION
LANIYO, : NO. 22-0188
Deceased. :

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Maria Ana Limes Laniyo, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on THURSDAY, October 6, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of the said day.

NOTICE is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Maria Ana Limes Laniyo, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: August 25, 2022
/s/
JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F-0122
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POST OFFICE BOX 5222
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FAX: (670) 234-9537
EMAIL: mwhite@saipan.com
ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter :
of the Estate of :
FELIX FLORES : CIVIL ACTION
FITIAL, : NO. 22-0187
Deceased. :

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Felix Flores Fitia, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on THURSDAY, October 6, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of the said day.

NOTICE is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Felix Flores Fitia, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: August 25, 2022
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JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter :
of the Estate of :
ROSALIA : CIVIL ACTION
SELEPEO BORJA, : NO. 22-0186
Deceased. :

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Rosalia Selepeo Borja, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on THURSDAY, October 6, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of the said day.

NOTICE is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Rosalia Selepeo Borja, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: August 25, 2022
/s/
JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

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ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter :
of the Estate of :
PEDRO ITIBUS ILO, : CIVIL ACTION
Deceased. : NO. 22-0185

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Pedro Itibus Ilo, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on THURSDAY, October 6, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of the said day.

NOTICE is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Pedro Itibus Ilo, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: August 25, 2022
/s/
JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

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ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter :
of the Estate of :
MILICENT : CIVIL ACTION
ANNE ILO, : NO. 22-0184
Deceased. :

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Millicent Anne Ilo, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on THURSDAY, October 6, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of the said day.

NOTICE is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Millicent Anne Ilo, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: August 25, 2022
/s/
JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

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ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter :
of the Estate of :
ALEXANDER : CIVIL ACTION
PANGELINAN : NO. 22-0183
SABLAN, :
Deceased. :

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Alexander Pangelinan Sablan, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on THURSDAY, October 6, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of the said day.

NOTICE is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Alexander Pangelinan Sablan, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: August 25, 2022
/s/
JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

Business

RIHGA introduces legendary teppanyaki multi-course menu

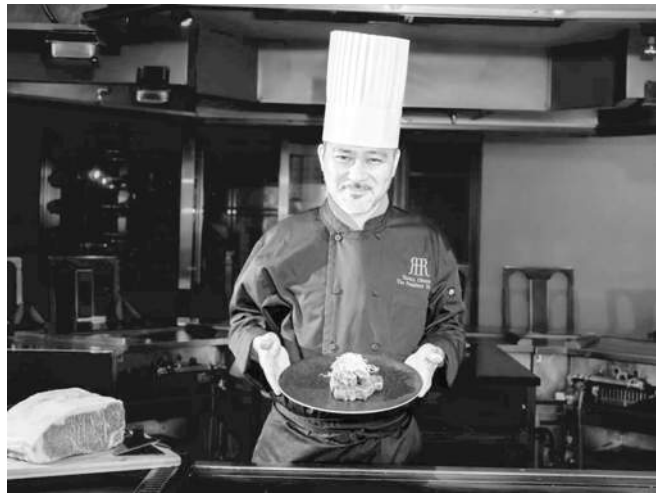
TAMUNING, Guam—The RIHGA Royal Laguna Guam Resort announced the opening of chef Okamoto's elevated chef's table experience at its teppanyaki restaurant, The President Nippon. This unique and intimate dining experience includes multi-course menus, specially designed by Okamoto or pre-arranged by his guests. The dining experience is now available for couples or groups of up to four guests per evening.

As one of the leading hoteliers in Japan with a vast and distinguished legacy, the RIHGA Royal Laguna Guam Resort is well-known throughout Japan for its dining experiences.

General manager Nobuyuki Tsurui noted that the resort is enhancing its culinary experience at The President Nippon to meld exceptional Japanese hospitality with custom-made menus that incorporate the freshest produce and ingredients. A key ingredient will be flown in — the best wagyu beef from Japan.

Tsurui said, "We are proud to announce our new chef's table experience at The President Nippon. Chef Okamoto is a world-class culinary expert who will introduce residents and visitors to an unrivaled teppan experience in Guam. We believe guests will be delighted by his fine craft of preparing the freshest local ingredients and top-quality wagyu beef in his unique style. It is a treat for the senses."

Okamoto has served guests in restaurants all over the world from prestigious French restaurants in Japan, as an executive chef at the Pan Pacific Hotel in San Francisco,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chef Okamoto is launching three teppan menus at RIHGA Royal Laguna's teppanyaki restaurant, The President Nippon.

and in fine restaurants across the United States and Europe. Most notably, Okamoto served more than 12 years at Roppongi Ukai-tei in Central Tokyo, Japan. Roppongi Ukai-tei is the premier teppan restaurant in Japan, where Chef Okamoto also held the position as its head chef. His well-rounded culinary expertise includes pastry, western, Chinese, and authentic, traditional Japanese cuisine.

Okamoto has created unforgettable food experiences, sometimes up to 11 courses, for past Japanese prime ministers, professional athletes, and celebrities. He is honored to share his unique style and custom-made teppan cuisine with guests in Guam.

Chef Okamoto is launching three teppan menus:

■ Sakura — six-course menu: \$130

■ Kikyo — six-course menu: \$160

■ Botan — seven-course menu: \$190

Tsurui added, "His chef's

table experience is best described as a theatrical stage where food, craft, and performance come together in harmony. Guests can expect teppanyaki at its finest, which we are proud to bring to Guam."

RIHGA Royal Laguna Guam Resort invites guests to place their reservations for Chef Okamoto's chef's table experience, which begins on Sept. 1, 2022, by contacting Steve Balakrishna, Director of Food and Beverage via phone at (671) 688-8123. Reservations require name, date and time of reservation, and method of payment. Additionally, allergies or dietary requirements are required at the time of booking. Reservations may not exceed five persons per reservation. The chef's table has limited seating with only one table per evening. Guests will enjoy complimentary valet service with their dinner reservations. All menus are subject to a 10% service charge. PHR Club discounts (20%) are applicable. (PR)

Labor board rules Tesla must let workers wear union clothing

DETROIT (AP)—The National Labor Relations Board has reversed a Trump-era decision by finding that Tesla can't stop factory employees from wearing clothing with union insignia while on the job.

The board, in a 3-2 decision released Monday, overruled a 2019 NLRB decision involving Walmart and union clothing. The board wrote that a 1945 Supreme Court decision established the precedent for allowing the clothing.

It ordered Tesla to stop enforcing an "overly broad" uniform policy that effectively stops production workers at Tesla's Fremont, California, factory from wearing black

shirts with the United Auto Workers union's logo.

The board said by ruling against Tesla, it reaffirmed a longstanding precedent that it is "presumptively unlawful" for employers to restrict union clothing without special circumstances that justify the ban.

The board majority determined that Tesla failed to establish any special circumstances that would allow banning the UAW clothing.

"The board reaffirms that any attempt to restrict the wearing of union clothing or insignia is presumptively unlawful and — consistent with Supreme Court precedent — an employer has a heightened

burden to justify attempts to limit this important right," Chairman Lauren McFerran said in a statement.

Messages were left Monday seeking comment from Tesla and the auto workers union.

It's the second defeat at the NLRB for Tesla and CEO Elon Musk.

Tesla is appealing a ruling from last year that found the company and Musk engaged in unfair labor practices in 2018.

A year ago, the labor relations board found that in a May 20, 2018 tweet, Musk unlawfully threatened employees with loss of stock options if they chose to be represented by the UAW.

Nation

Biden to talk crime, gun control in Pennsylvania

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden is ready to talk up his crime prevention plans during a visit to Pennsylvania, where Democrats and Republicans are looking for ways to gain leverage on the issue ahead of November's midterm elections.

The White House said Biden will use his Tuesday visit to call out Republicans for opposing his proposal to restore a ban on assault-style weapons.

Both parties worked together in a rare effort to pass bipartisan gun safety legislation earlier this year after massacres in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas, but Biden has repeatedly said more needs to be done.

As a U.S. senator, Biden played a leading role in temporarily banning assault-style weapons, including firearms similar to the AR-15 that have exploded in popularity in recent years, and he wants to put the law back into place.

"A majority of Americans support this ... the NRA opposes it," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Monday. "So we're going to hear from the president about the importance of making sure we protect our communities."

Biden's speech at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre comes as Democrats try to blunt Republican efforts to use concern about crime to their advantage in the midterms.

It's a particularly fraught issue in Pennsylvania, a key swing state where a U.S. Senate seat and the govern-

nor's office are up for grabs.

The Republican candidate for governor, Doug Mastriano, accuses Democrat Josh Shapiro of being soft on crime as the state's twice-elected attorney general, saying at one recent event



Biden

that crime has gone up on his opponent's watch and that Shapiro "stands aside" as homicides rise across Pennsylvania.

Homicides have been increasing in Pennsylvania, but overall crime seems to have fallen over the last year, according to state statistics.

As attorney general since 2017, Shapiro has toured the state discussing the need to crack down on gun trafficking and ghost guns, and to recruit more police officers. Last December, he said that state agents and Philadelphia police officers working together had reduced the number of shootings in areas that were confronting gun violence related to drug trafficking.

Shapiro plans to attend Tuesday's event with Biden.

The Republican U.S. Senate nominee, heart surgeon turned television celebrity Dr. Mehmet Oz, has tried to portray the Democratic candidate, Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, as extreme and reckless on crime policy.

Fetterman has endorsed recommendations that more geriatric and rehabilitated prisoners can be released from state prisons with-

out harming public safety. Oz and Republicans have distorted that into the claim that Fetterman wants to release "dangerous criminals" from prisons or that he's in favor of "emptying prisons."

Fetterman does not plan to be in

Wilkes-Barre with Biden, but he's expected to march in Pittsburgh's Labor Day parade when the president visits Monday. Biden also will be in Pennsylvania on Thursday for a prime-time speech that the White House said will address "the continued battle for the soul of the nation" and defending democracy.

It's unclear whether crime will end up as a pivotal issue in November.

Only 11% of U.S. adults named crime or violence as one of the top five issues they consider most important for the government to work on in the next year, according to an AP-NORC poll conducted in June. That's unchanged since December, and it's well below the percentage naming many of the other top issues for Americans.

Biden has tried to balance his approach to crime by acknowledging voters' fears and praising law enforcement, but also urging more accountability for officers.

He's rejected the activist slogan "defund the police," which Republicans have used as a cudgel against Democrats in general, by calling for more money for cops.

US: Review of possibly privileged Trump papers already over

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department has completed its review of potentially privileged documents seized from former President Donald Trump's Florida estate this month and has identified "a limited set of materials that potentially contain attorney-client privileged information," according to a court filing Monday.

The filing from the department follows a judge's weekend order indicating that she was inclined to grant the Trump legal team's request for a special master who would oversee the review of documents taken

during the Aug. 8 search of the Mar-a-Lago estate and ensure that any that might be protected by claims of legal privilege be set aside.

In revealing that the department had completed its review of potentially privileged communications, law enforcement officials appeared to be suggesting that the appointment of a third-party special master might now be moot. The department had been relying on a specialized team to filter out potentially privileged communications and said Monday that it had completed its review of those materials be-

fore the judge's order.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon said on Saturday that it was her "preliminary intent" to appoint a special master — which would be an early procedural win for the Trump legal team — but gave the department an opportunity to respond and scheduled a Thursday hearing to discuss the matter further.

The judge also directed the Justice Department to submit under seal a more detailed description of the materials that were seized from Trump's estate in Palm Beach, something the department on Monday said it would do.

Asia

AMID CRISIS

Sri Lanka's president to present relief budget

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's new government plans Tuesday to present an amended budget for the year that slashes expenses and aims to provide relief to people hit hard by the country's economic meltdown.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is also the finance minister, will present the budget in Parliament, which will vote on it after a debate.

The government is negotiating with a visiting International Monetary Fund team on a program to rescue Sri Lanka from its economic crisis. The government is also preparing to negotiate a restructuring of foreign loans Sri Lanka is unable to repay because of a severe foreign exchange shortage.

Prior to the visit, the IMF said in a statement because Sri Lanka's public debt is unsustainable, the IMF's executive board will need assurances by Sri Lanka's creditors that debt sustainability will be restored before any bailout program begins.

Sri Lanka's total foreign debt exceeds \$51 billion — of which it must repay \$28 billion by 2027.

The IMF delegation is expected to conclude its visit Wednesday and the government hopes to reach a preliminary agreement by then.

Sri Lankans have faced acute shortages of essentials



Sri Lankan president Ranil Wickremesinghe arrives at the parliamentary complex in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Aug. 3, 2022. AP

like fuel, medicine, and cooking gas for months. Though cooking gas supplies were restored through World Bank support, shortages of fuel, critical medicines and some food items continue.

Long fuel lines are reappearing after a quota system seemed to have brought them under control over the past weeks.

"I thought things are improving," salesperson Asanka Chandana said. "For several weeks in May and June, we faced severe hardships, but things were getting better over the last two weeks after the introduction of the quota system. Now it looks like the shortage is still there and we are back to the square one."

Power and Energy Minister

Kanchana Wijesekera said lapses in distribution, delays in unloading, and payments for orders by fuel stations have created long lines. He said the issues will be sorted within days.

The new budget comes amid a relative calm following months of public protests that led to the ouster of Wickremesinghe's predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his family members from power. Protesters accused the once-powerful Rajapaksa political family of being primarily responsible for the economic crisis through corruption and mismanagement.

Rajapaksa fled the country in July and resigned after protesters stormed his official residence. He is now in Thailand.

cuts access to certain areas.

Griffiths stressed, however, that "humanitarian aid will never be able to replace the provision of system-wide services to 40 million people across the country."

The Taliban "have no budget to invest in their own future," he said, and "it's clear that some development support needs to be started."

With more than 70 percent of Afghan's living in rural areas, Griffiths warned that if agriculture and livestock production aren't protected "millions of lives and livelihoods will be risked, and the country's capacity to produce food imperiled."

He said the country's banking and liquidity crisis, and the extreme difficulty of international financial transactions must also be tackled.

World

Russia to hold sweeping joint war games with China, others

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia said Monday it will launch sweeping military drills in the country's east that will involve forces from China—a show of increasingly close defense ties between Moscow and Beijing amid tensions with the West over the Kremlin's action in Ukraine.

The Russian Defense Ministry said that the Vostok 2022 (East 2022) exercise will be held Sept. 1-7 in various locations in Russia's Far East and the Sea of Japan and involve more than 50,000 troops, over 5,000 weapons units, including 140 aircraft and 60 warships.

The ministry released a video of Chinese troops arriving in Russia in preparation for the exercise.

The drills will be conducted at seven firing ranges in far eastern Russia and will engage troops from several ex-Soviet nations, China, India, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua and Syria.

The ministry said that units of Russian Airborne troops, long-range bombers and military cargo planes

will take part in the drills along with other forces.

While first announcing the exercise last month, the Russian military emphasized that it's part of planned combat training that is continuing despite Moscow's military action in Ukraine. It hasn't disclosed the number of troops engaged in what the Kremlin calls the "special military operation" there.

The ministry noted that as part of the maneuvers, the Russian and Chinese navies in the Sea of Japan will "practice joint action to protect sea communications, areas of marine economic activity and support for ground troops in littoral areas."

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Fomin specified that the naval drills would take part in the northern and central part of the Sea of Japan.

"The exercise isn't directed against any specific countries or military alliances and is purely defensive," Fomin said at a meeting with foreign military attaches.

The drills reflect increasing defense ties between

Moscow and Beijing, which have grown stronger since Russia sent its troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24. China has pointedly refused to criticize Russia's action, blaming the U.S. and NATO for provoking Moscow, and has blasted punishing sanctions imposed on Moscow.

Russia, in turn, has strongly backed China amid the tensions with the U.S. that followed a recent visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Speaking earlier this month, Russian President Vladimir Putin drew parallels between U.S. support for Ukraine and Pelosi's trip to Taiwan, charging that both were part of alleged American efforts to foment global instability.

Russia and China have held a series of joint war games in recent years, including naval drills and patrols by long-range bombers over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea. Last year, Russian troops for the first time deployed to Chinese territory for joint maneuvers.

WORLD BRIEFS

Flag raised in Canada to honor residential school survivors

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)—The Canadian government raised the Survivors' Flag on Parliament Hill Monday as a way to honor Indigenous Peoples forced to attend the country's notorious residential schools. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was joined by survivors of residential schools from across the country. More than 150,000 native children in Canada were forced to attend state-funded Christian schools from the 19th century until the 1970s in an effort to isolate them from the influence of their homes and culture. The aim was to Christianize and assimilate them into mainstream society, which previous Canadian governments considered superior. Several residential school survivors spoke about the significance of the flag, including Jimmy Durocher, a Métis survivor who attended St. Bruno's boarding school in Île-à-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan. "Today we raise the Survivors' Flag high over these colonial

buildings, where lawmakers are now listening to our truths and seeking to work together towards reconciliation," Durocher said.

Sub ends Lebanon mission after finding sunken migrant boat

BEIRUT (AP)—An underwater craft ended its search mission off Lebanon after locating a boat carrying migrants that sank earlier this year in the Mediterranean Sea, but bigger equipment is needed to pull it out, a legislator said Monday. The comments by legislator Ashraf Rifi came days after the submarine found the remains of at least 10 migrants who drowned when their boat sank in April off northern Lebanon with about 30 people on board. The boat had carried dozens of Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians trying to migrate by sea to Italy. It went down more than five kilometers (three miles) from the port of Tripoli, following a confrontation with the Lebanese navy. Ten bodies were recovered that night, including one of a child, while 48 survivors were pulled from

the Mediterranean. According to navy estimates, 30 people were believed to have gone down with the boat.

Clashes erupt after Iraqi Shiite cleric resigns, 15 dead

BAGHDAD (AP)—An influential Shiite cleric announced Monday that he would resign from Iraqi politics, prompting hundreds of his angry followers to storm the government palace and sparking clashes with security forces. At least 15 protesters were killed. Protesters loyal to cleric Muqtada al-Sadr pulled down the cement barriers outside the government palace with ropes and breached the palace gates. Many rushed into the lavish salons and marbled halls of the palace, a key meeting place for Iraqi heads of state and foreign dignitaries. Iraq's military announced a nationwide curfew, and the caretaker premier suspended Cabinet sessions in response to the violence. Medical officials said dozens of protesters were wounded by gunfire and tear gas and physical altercations with riot police.

UN warns 6 million Afghans at risk of famine as crises grow

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Warning that Afghanistan faces deepening poverty with 6 million people at risk of famine, the U.N. humanitarian chief on Monday urged donors to restore funding for economic development and immediately provide \$770 million to help Afghans get through the winter as the United States argued with Russia and China over who should pay.

Martin Griffiths told the U.N. Security Council that Afghanistan faces multiple crises—humanitarian, economic, climate, hunger and financial.

Conflict, poverty, climate shocks and food insecurity "have long been a sad reality" in Afghanistan, but he said what makes the current situation "so critical" is the halt to large-scale development aid since the Taliban takeover a

year ago.

More than half the Afghan population — some 24 million people — need assistance and close to 19 million are facing acute levels of food insecurity, Griffiths said. And "we worry" that the figures will soon become worse because winter weather will send already high fuel and food prices skyrocketing.

Despite the challenges, he said U.N. agencies and their NGO partners have mounted "an unprecedented response" over the past year, reaching almost 23 million people.

But he said \$614 million is urgently required to prepare for winter including repairing and upgrading shelters and providing warm clothes and blankets—and an additional \$154 million is needed to preposition food and other supplies before the weather

Good Housekeeping

Installing rooftop solar panels can get your home insurance canceled

By RON HURTIBISE
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

As electric bills surge and the federal government offers generous tax incentives for renewable energy investments, more and more Florida homeowners are seriously considering rooftop solar systems.

But in calculating system costs vs. electric bill savings, many would-be solar owners are neglecting to consider how a solar system will affect their home insurance bill — or how difficult it might be to find a company that will insure them at all.

And with insurance premiums skyrocketing for all Florida homeowners, solar customers who can obtain coverage might also find that the price increase will wipe out any energy-cost savings they expected from going solar.

“It’s a big deal and a lot of folks don’t realize that many carriers don’t accept solar panels,” says Dulce Suarez-Resnick, vice president at the Miami-based agency Acentria Insurance.

Oakland Park, Florida, homeowner Holly Strawbridge learned this the hard way. She installed a modest 8,000 kilowatt system atop her home about two years ago and recently signed up for coverage with Edison Insurance Company. After the insurer sent an inspector to her home, she received a letter canceling her entire policy.

“I was shocked,” Strawbridge said. “I’ve never filed an insurance claim and I’ve lived in this house since 2001.”

The reasons cited in the cancellation letter sent by Edison: Her solar panels are ineligible for coverage due to the age of her roof (11 years) and because she has a tile roof.

Those aren’t the only reasons insurers won’t cover rooftop solar systems, according to interviews with solar installers, solar energy advocates, and insurance agents. Insurers who do business in Florida offer a wide variety of reasons for refusing to insure homes with them.

Net metering flagged by insurers

Increasingly, insurers are claiming that solar systems with net metering connections to utilities — which is virtually all of them in Florida — pose a unique risk of injury to line workers and damage to the utility grid.

Florida Power & Light’s net metering contract requires homeowners to take



responsibility for all potential damages, says Ryan Papy, president of Palmetto Bay, Florida-based Keyes Insurance. “So if there’s a surge running through your panels that causes damage to the grid or other homes, the client is responsible.”

Solar installers and advocates call that justification unfounded. They say all equipment used to connect rooftop solar systems to the grid comply with state building and electrical codes and are inspected by utilities before new systems are activated. Utilities also have authority to come onto solar owners’ properties and disconnect them if they suspect any safety issues, they say.

Solar advocates wonder if the net metering concerns are just excuse insurers are giving to justify dropping customers.

Many insurers who operate in Florida, faced with mounting losses, have been dropping or nonrenewing policies to reduce the amount of overall risk they carry on their books of business. In some cases, state insurance regulators have ordered insurers to shed policies so they can afford to purchase reinsurance — insurance that insurers must carry to be able to pay all claims after a catastrophe.

Justin Hoysradt, president of Vinyasun, a solar installation company based in West Palm Beach, says the potential dangers of backfeeding are exaggerated.

Since 2006, all power-producing inverters have complied with an electrical standard called U.L. 1741, Hoysradt said. This standard requires solar system inverters to be able to detect utility outages or any odd voltage disruption and automatically

disconnect the solar systems from the grid.

Hoysradt says he is unaware of any documented instance of injury or damage from a properly installed UL 1741-certified inverter.

The cut-off technology is so dependable that utilities recently removed a requirement that solar systems be equipped with separate redundant remote power-off switches, he said.

Until about a year ago, Hoysradt rarely heard customers complain that they couldn’t find or keep insurance because of their solar systems. Now, at least one potential customer a day says their insurer could not guarantee they wouldn’t be dropped if they install solar, he said.

Other insurers have told homeowners that net metering turns them into commercial utilities and no longer eligible for homeowner insurance policies, said Heaven Campbell, Florida program directors for Solar United Neighbors, a nationwide nonprofit that helps solar customers form co-ops to secure better pricing.

Campbell says her organization has documented about 60 homeowner complaints over the past year. They either say they’ve been cancelled after installing solar panels or told they would no longer be eligible for coverage if they install panels, she said.

Insurer cites numerous concerns

Olympus Insurance laid out an extensive list of concerns about property and liability exposures in a 2020 filing with the Office of Insurance Regulation, while seeking approval to exclude solar systems from the risks it must cover.

They included increase exposure for damage due to wind uplift when solar panels are attached to a roof, increased exposure for wind or hail damage to the solar system itself, fire hazards from loose or poorly connected parts or wires, increased risk or electrocution, presence of toxic materials and byproducts of the panels themselves, and potential liability associated with backfeeding to the grid.

Without commenting on the validity of the concerns, the Office of Insurance Regulation told Olympus it could not allow a broad mandatory exclusion for coverage of solar unless the company provided an option for solar owners to “buy back” the coverage at an increased price. Olympus withdrew the filing. It could not be immediately determined from the office’s filing database whether the company resubmitted it with the buy-back option.

Campbell disputes claims that rooftop solar systems make roofs more susceptible to wind uplift during hurricanes. She said after Hurricane Michael struck the Panhandle in October 2018, many roofs with solar panels remained intact amid roofs without solar panels that were destroyed.

Solar United Neighbors’ website contains numerous photos of installations that held up in storms that damaged roofs of surrounding homes. Campbell says modern building codes actually make roofs with solar panels better able to withstand winds.

Paul Handerhan, president of the consumer focused Federal Association for Insurance Reform, said concerns about wind uplift stem from the potential for increased damage if

solar panels and roofs are torn from homes together.

Suarez-Resnick concurs: “With stronger winds like a Category 3 hurricane, you might have much more damage if panels go flying and land on your neighbor’s roof or car.”

Companies that do insure rooftop solar systems are allowed to set strict conditions for that coverage, filings show.

Edison, the company that cancelled Strawbridge’s policy, will only cover homes with solar systems that were installed after 2016, on shingle or metal roofs no older than 10 years, on flat roofs no older than five years, and produce no more 10 kilowatts of electricity, which is more or less the typical rooftop system capacity.

As Strawbridge found out, Edison will not insure solar systems mounted on clay or tile roofs. Stacey Giuliani, chief legal officer at Florida Peninsula Insurance Company, parent company of Edison, said, “We chose not to insure solar panels on tile roof homes due to the challenges presented by the attachment of the panels to the roofs. Most tile roof installations require attachment brackets which must pierce the tile roofs.”

Solar panels are routinely installed without piercing tiles, Hoysradt said. Many installers remove clay tiles at the point where solar posts attach to the roof and replace them with aluminum tiles that won’t break or crack when drilled.

Hoysradt noted that state licensing requirements for solar installers require knowledge of roofing, electrical and plumbing construction.

“We’re not just a bunch of people taking roofs apart with no experience,” he said. “There’s no reason for insur-

TNS
Holly Strawbridge of Oakland Park shows her rooftop solar panels. She’s one of an increasing number of solar owners who say their insurers won’t cover homes with solar systems.

ance carriers to not cover solar on a tile roof.”

Nevertheless, rooftop solar consumers can expect to find a hodgepodge of insurance rules unless and until the state legislature decides to enact common coverage standards.

Common standards for insuring solar?

The national trade organization Solar Energy Industries Association is working with fellow solar advocacy groups Florida SEIA, Solar United Neighbors and Vote Solar to reach out to insurers and try to develop legislation to eliminate confusion about insurance practices, said Will Giese, the association’s Southeast regional director.

The good news for Strawbridge and other solar owners is there are insurers that do not prohibit coverage of homes with solar systems or impose a long list of restrictions on coverage. They include state-owned Citizens Property Insurance Corp., the so-called “insurer of last resort.”

Citizens covers solar systems as part of the structure. No special endorsements or add-ons are required, spokesman Michael Peltier said. “They would just be added into the replacement value of the home,” he said. Of course, adding solar panels increases the value of a home, so homeowners can expect to pay a higher premium when they add solar.

One mistake a homeowner should never make: Installing a solar system without checking insurance options, Suarez-Resnick said. An agent can tell you whether your roof is nearing the end of its life and should be replaced first. It’s a pain to find new insurance, and it’s costly to remove and replace solar panels because Citizens or another insurer demands that you get a new roof.

Or you might look for a solar installer, like Universal Contracting and Solar, that specializes in bundling roof replacements and solar installations. You can get long-term financing and qualify for the 30% federal tax credit to offset cost of the combined job, says Jenifer Kempka, the company’s director of business development.

“Right now is the best time to go solar,” she said.

Life & Style

Diana's last moments: French doctor recalls 'tragic night'

PARIS (AP)—The woman was crumpled on the floor of a mangled Mercedes, unconscious and struggling to breathe. The French doctor had no idea who she was and just focused on trying to save her.

Twenty-five years later, Dr. Frederic Mailliez is still marked by what happened in the Alma Tunnel in Paris on Aug. 31, 1997 — and the realization that he was one of the last people to see Princess Diana alive.

"I realize my name will always be attached to this tragic night," Mailliez, who was on his way home from a party when he came across the car crash, told The Associated Press. "I feel a little bit responsible for her last moments."

As Britain and Diana's admirers worldwide mark a quarter-century since her death, Mailliez recounted the aftermath of the crash.



AP
In this early Sunday, Aug. 31, 1997 file photo, police services prepare to take away the car in which Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, died in Paris, in a car crash that also killed her companion Dodi Fayed, and chauffeur.

That night, Mailliez was driving into the tunnel when he spotted a smoking Mercedes nearly split in two.

"I walked toward the wreckage. I opened the door, and I looked inside," he said.

What he saw: "Four people, two of them were apparently dead, no reaction, no breathing, and the two others, on the right side, were living but in severe condition. The front passenger was screaming, he was breath-

ing. He could wait a few minutes. And the female passenger, the young lady, was on her knees on the floor of the Mercedes, she had her head down. She had difficulty to breathe. She needed quick assistance."

He ran to his car to call emergency services and grab a respiratory bag.

"She was unconscious," he said. "Thanks to my respiratory bag (...) she regained a little bit more energy, but she couldn't say anything."

The doctor would later find out the news — along with the rest of the world — that the woman he treated was Diana, Britain's national treasure adored by millions.

"I know it's surprising, but I didn't recognize Princess Diana," he said. "I was in the car on the rear seat giving assistance. I realized she was very beautiful, but my attention was so focused on what I had to do to save her

life, I didn't have time to think, who was this woman."

"Someone behind me told me the victims spoke English, so I began to speak English, saying I was a doctor and I called the ambulance," he said. "I tried to comfort her."

As he worked, he noticed the flash of camera bulbs, of paparazzi gathered to document the scene. A British inquest found Diana's chauffeur, Henri Paul, was drunk and driving at a high speed to elude pursuing photographers.

Mailliez said he had "no reproach" toward the photographers' actions after the crash. "They didn't hamper me having access to the victims. ... I didn't ask them for help, but they didn't interfere with my job."

Firefighters quickly came, and Diana was taken to a Paris hospital, where she died a few hours later. Her companion Dodi Fayed and

the driver also died.

"It was a massive shock to learn that she was Princess Diana, and that she died," Mailliez said. Then self-doubt set in. "Did I do everything I could to save her? Did I do correctly my job?" he asked himself. "I checked with my medical professors and I checked with police investigators," he said, and they agreed he did all he could.

The anniversary is stirring up those memories again, but they also come back "each time I drive through the Alma Tunnel," he said.

As Mailliez spoke, standing atop the tunnel, cars rushed in and out past the pillar where she crashed, now bearing a stencil drawing of Diana's face.

The Flame of Liberty monument nearby has become a memorial site attracting Diana fans of all generations and nationalities. She has become a timeless figure of emancipation and a fashion icon even for those born after her death.

Irinia Ouahvi, a 16-year-old Parisian visiting the flame, said she knows Diana through TikTok videos and through her mother.

"Even with her style she was a feminist. She challenged royal etiquette, wearing cyclist shorts and casual pants," Ouahvi said.

Francine Rose, a Dutch 16-year-old who stopped by Diana's memorial while on a biking trip in Paris, discovered her story thanks to "Spencer," a recent film starring Kristen Stewart.

"She is an inspiration because she was evolving in the strict household, the royal family, and just wanted to be free," Rose said.

2 more R. Kelly accusers testify at trial in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—Two more accusers took the witness stand at R. Kelly's child pornography and solicitation of minors trial Monday, bringing to three the total number of accusers to have testified to date at the federal trial in Chicago.

The first accuser, who testified two weeks ago under the pseudonym "Jane," is critical to another of the charges — that the R&B singer successfully rigged his 2008 state child pornography trial by threatening witnesses and concealing video evidence.

Kelly, 55, was handed a 30-year prison sentence by a fed-

eral judge in New York in June for convictions on racketeering and sex trafficking charges.

In all, the prosecution cited five accusers in pre-trial filings, though it is unclear if both of the remaining accusers will testify before the government rests sometime this week. The trial was expected to last a month, wrapping up in mid-September.

An accuser who used the pseudonym "Pauline," told jurors Monday she was a middle



Kelly

school classmate of Jane's and that Jane introduced her to Kelly in 1998 when they were 14 and Kelly was around 30.

When she was at Kelly's Chicago home later that year, Pauline said she was startled to walk in on Kelly and a naked Jane in a basement area. She said Kelly told her that "we all have secrets" and that this is "our secret."

Pauline several times told jurors she had loved Kelly. But, as a 37-year-old mom, she said she

now had a different perspective.

"If somebody did something to my kids, I'm killing 'em. Period," she said.

Kelly sexually abused her over 100 times, starting when she was 14, and they first had intercourse when she was 15, she testified.

Under cross-examination, lead Kelly lawyer Jennifer Bonjean accused Pauline of being imprecise about how many times she had sex with Kelly when she was underage.

"Whether it is once or twice, what's wrong is wrong," Pauline shot back.

The second accuser to testify Monday, referred to only as

Tracy, said she was introduced to Kelly when she was 16 by a boss at a record company she was interning for in 1998. Tracy told jurors she repeatedly rebuffed Kelly's advances.

At a room in Kelly's Chicago studio, she recalled telling him after he began pulling her close to him, "You know I'm 16?" Minutes later, when he "exposed himself... I tried to pull back but he had a hold of my shirt," Tracy testified.

On another occasion, she described Kelly coming into a hotel room where Tracy was staying and yelling at her for having clothes on under her bathrobe.

"I told him I didn't want to have sex," she testified.

Three's definitely a crowd in couple's budding romance

DEAR ABBY: I recently met the love of my life, and I'm planning to leave my life and family in Arkansas and move to California to marry him. He's recently divorced after a 25-year marriage. My problem is that his ex wanted the divorce, but now she wants him back. She knows he has met someone, but she's constantly telling him she wants a "booty call."

They have two grown children, and their daughter is being married soon. His ex is now threatening that if he brings me to the wedding, she will do something crazy. I know he loves me and he talks to her only to keep her calm, but I feel if he doesn't take me to the wedding he will be highly disrespecting me. He still talks to her even though she has said some nasty things about me, which is also hurtful. Am I being too sensitive?

PERPLEXED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PERPLEXED: When this man's ex tells him she wants a booty call, how does he respond? If he's still sexually involved with her, your odds of success with him are zero. He may talk to her (in spite of her saying nasty things about you) because they have children and possibly grandchildren in common. That he would REPEAT her less than complimentary comments to you does not say much for his judgment.

Under these circumstances, I don't think you should insist upon attending that wedding. Instead, think carefully about the wisdom of leaving your life and family and relocating unless you have a job waiting and a guaranteed timeline regarding marriage.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 50-year-old nephew has always used women and was finally caught embezzling \$60,000 from one of them. He was arrested and ordered to pay restitution, or he would stay in prison for years. After only two weeks of incarceration, he cried and pleaded with our family and promised he would pay anyone back the money if they would pay his restitution.

My sister was a wreck and came to me. I came up with the money and got a promissory note from my nephew. Long story short, he stuck my sister with every payment. When my sister went bankrupt because of it, I asked if he could at least pay \$25 toward what he owed, but he did nothing. My sister finally repaid everything my nephew owed me, and now she expects us all to be one big, happy family.

She has invited me and my husband to come for the holidays, which will include my nephew. I told her I will never again be in the same room with that liar and cheat, so now she's upset with me! Am I making the right choice? He used all of us to get out of jail, never paid anyone back and is still using women. For that

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



I'm supposed to embrace him with open arms? I think it would be condoning his actions.

UPSET AUNT

DEAR AUNT: I agree with you about that. Your instinctive reaction to keep your sociopathic nephew at arm's length (or even further) is HEALTHY. It's safer to keep people with no ethics at a distance. After what happened, as much as your sister might wish it, you are no longer one big happy family.

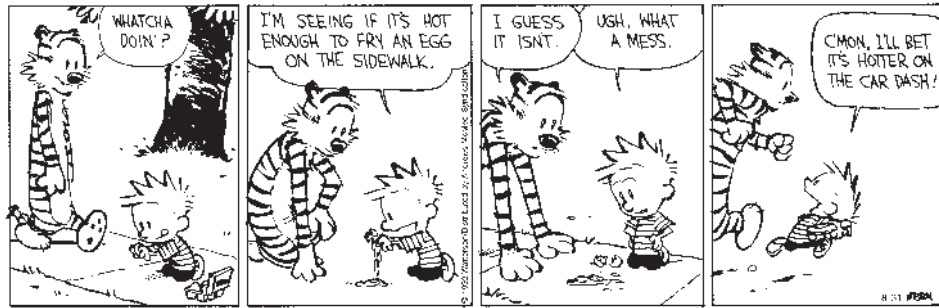
■■■■■

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

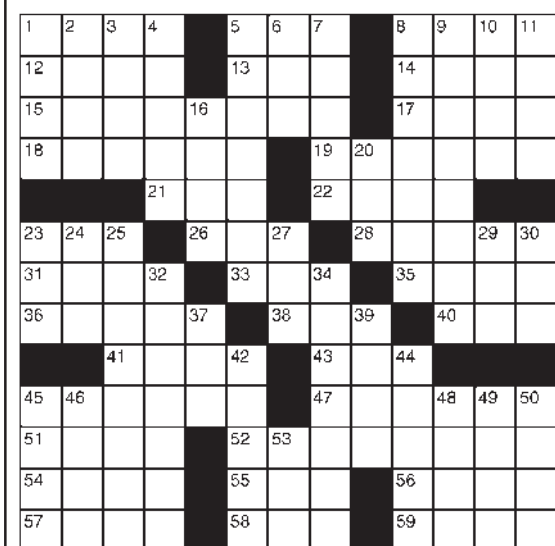
- 1 Eve's man
- 5 Agt.'s take
- 8 Summit artist
- 12 C&W Scan
- 13 Geological period
- 14 Linguist Chomsky
- 15 Magnificence
- 17 Leslie Caron role
- 18 Next in line
- 19 Business goal
- 21 Poetic contraction
- 22 Feudal laborer
- 23 Rx writers
- 26 Actor McKellen
- 28 Cardio-boxing routine
- 31 Nest egg choices
- 33 Vat
- 35 Foolproof
- 36 Picture puzzle
- 38 Diner order

DOWN

- 1 Golden Fleece ship
- 2 "Wild" actress
- 3 "That's not — idea"
- 4 "Olympia" painter
- 5 Views slyly
- 6 French vineyard
- 7 Infield covers
- 8 Long-haired cats
- 9 Hair-dresser
- 10 Crèche trio
- 11 Send forth
- 16 Roman 602
- 20 Pensioned (Abbr.)
- 23 Soviet space station
- 24 Dad on "Black-ish"
- 25 1942 Hitchcock thriller
- 27 Gist
- 29 Bikini half
- 30 British ref. work
- 32 Java neighbor
- 34 Total nonsense
- 37 Perched
- 39 Calendar abbr.
- 42 Wanderer
- 44 Big smiles
- 45 Bits of butter
- 46 Reed instrument
- 48 Fair-hiring org.
- 49 Mystique
- 50 "Phooey!"
- 53 Mine material

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-31



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Ramirez, 47; Chris Tucker, 51; Zack Ward, 52; Richard Gere, 73.

Happy Birthday: Be kind to yourself. Make alterations to your lifestyle. Use research as your direct link to the results you want to achieve. Participate, be part of the solution and help end situations that add stress and anxiety to you and your loved ones. Choose kindness and generosity over anger and revenge. Concentrate on being and doing your best. Your numbers are 8, 19, 24, 26, 33, 37, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your life and plans simple and doable. Be open about what you want and how you plan to proceed. Discussions will open doors that haven't been available in the past. Strive for self-improvement and add to your skills, knowledge and popularity. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Rethink your steps and backtrack if necessary. Having everything in place before moving forward will give you the confidence to forge ahead with a plan you trust to help you reach your chosen destination. Do what's necessary to succeed. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look, see and do, and you will achieve something that makes you feel good about yourself and what you can do. Embrace change, but don't be a follower when leading the way will help you gain approval and a position of authority. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Choose your words wisely. Refuse to let anyone goad you into an emotional situation that damages your reputation or relationship with someone close to you. Hard work will pay off; learn all you can and expand your horizons. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Home improvements will make you feel good about where and how you live. Sharing your good fortune with friends and family will help you gain respect and the assistance you require to grow mentally, emotionally and financially. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Channel your energy into something worthwhile. Criticism and anger won't help you achieve your goals or leave a good impression on others. Change what's necessary, and do your best to protect what matters to you. Let your intuition be your guide. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Open conversations with people of interest. What you discover will encourage you to do more research and make lifestyle adjustments that put your mind at ease and give you hope for a brighter future. Romance is featured, and a commitment looks promising. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your creative imagination take over. You'll make a lasting impression on someone who has something to contribute to your thoughts and plans. Don't take a risk with your health or your physical well-being. Protect against illness and injury. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You know what others expect of you, so don't wait for someone to tell you to begin. Dive in and get things done. Showing initiative will put you in a good position. Personal gain, friendships with like-minded people and educational pursuits are favored. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Charm your way in and out of situations, and you will come out on top. A money-making opportunity is apparent, but don't feel you need to rush into something. Preparation and bartering are in your best interest. A unique approach will pay off. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't limit what you can do because someone takes up too much time. A well-thought-out schedule will help you stay on top and reach your goal. A playful encounter with someone special will bring you closer. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Dream. Feed your imagination with various exciting options to make life easier. Handle your peers with care, and don't ask others for help. Do what you do best -- help others -- and it will encourage others to support your efforts. ★★★★★

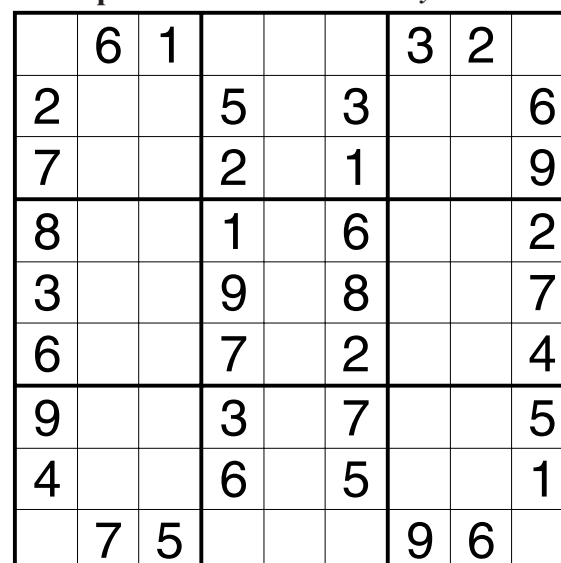
Birthday Baby: You are caring, independent and persistent. You are proactive and affectionate.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



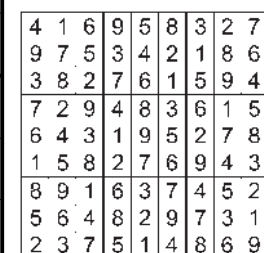
Difficulty Level ★★★

8/31

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle -- horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

VIETNAMESE CARDAMOM

Solution: 8 letters



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Antiseptic, Aromatic, Banh, Black, Botanical, Bread, Brown, Camphor, Chewing, Coffee, Cook, Crops, Earthy, Elettaria, Exported, Flavoring, Flower, Food, Forests, Fragrance, Ginger, Green, Grind, Grown, Health, Hoang, Infuses, Lentils, Lien, Meat, Mint, Oils, Oranges, Plants, Pods, Poultry, Processed, Pungent, Rice, Spice, Stem, Stews, Teas, Tree, Tropical
Yesterday's Answer: Crossword
Tuesdays 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 49 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Drury homers, drives in 3 as Padres hold off Giants 6-5



SAN FRANCISCO
(AP)—Mike

Clevinger came to the San Diego Padres from Cleveland, so he knows a thing or two about rain delays.

He did a beautiful job weathering not one but two unusual stoppages Monday night.

Brandon Drury hit a two-run homer in the first inning and later added an RBI single, leading Clevinger and the Padres past the San Francisco Giants 6-5 in a game that included a pair of delays due to an injured umpire and an electrical issue.

"This was a very frequent occurrence, but it was rain," Clevinger said about his nearly five seasons in Cleveland. "It was either rain on the forecast or rain happening."

Josh Bell had an RBI single for San Diego to get things started in the first, then Austin Nola hit a two-run single in the fourth.

Play was initially halted when plate umpire Marvin Hudson got hurt in the bottom of the first, then again for 40 minutes in the top of the third when some of the ballpark light banks went out.

Unfazed, Clevinger moved to the indoor mound and kept throwing.

"He ended up throwing 80 pitches or so. It felt like he threw 150," Padres manager Bob Melvin said.

That wasn't far off — 83 in the game, plus all the additional work. Clevinger tossed the equivalent of another bullpen session during the break.

"From 83 in the game to 32 before the game and 30 extra in the tunnel and the eight or nine between each inning, yeah, about 150 pitches," he said with a chuckle.

During the long delay, the scoreboard operator with a good sense of humor played Journey's "When the Lights Go Down in the City" for a singalong. Then, the Padres' Petco Park Twitter handle posted a photo of working lights at their ballpark, saying, "Just going to leave this here (at)OracleParkSF."

Clevinger (5-5) allowed Joc Pederson's two-run homer in the fourth for the only runs off him in five innings. Austin Slater's two-run single in the eighth against Nick Martinez and a run-scoring single by J.D. Davis made things interesting.

Martinez got four outs for his seventh save as San Diego held on in a 3-hour, 44-minute game after a 15-7 loss at Kansas City on Sunday.

Pederson's shot ended a streak of 172 plate appearances without a longball for San Francisco, and it was the



San Diego Padres third baseman Manny Machado fields a ground out hit by San Francisco Giants' Wilmer Flores during the fifth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Monday, Aug. 29, 2022.

Giants' first in five games. It was the club's second-longest streak this season behind 176 plate appearances without a homer from July 2-6.

Giants catcher Joey Bart left following the fourth after he took a foul tip from Manny Machado in the third. Bart stayed in to catch Carlos Rodón (12-7) in the fourth following a quick check at the plate of his face by athletic trainer Anthony Reyes, who then walked him up to the clubhouse for further examination.

Rodón, who was 4-0 over his previous five starts, allowed five runs and four hits. He struck out two and walked four while matching his second-shortest outing of the year at four innings as the Giants dropped their fifth straight and ninth in 11 overall.

Dodgers 3, Marlins 2

In Miami, Freddie Freeman drove in the go-ahead run with a grounder in the top of the 10th inning, Chris Martin escaped a bases-loaded jam in the bottom half and the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Miami Marlins 3-2 on Monday night.

Trea Turner had his 1,000th career hit with an infield single against reliever Huascar Brazoban (0-1) to begin the Dodgers 10th, advancing automatic runner Cody Bellinger to third. Freeman hit a grounder to first baseman Charles Leblanc, who got a forceout at second as Bellinger scored. Freeman had two earlier hits and leads the majors with 163.

Jon Berti walked to lead

off the bottom half against reliever Craig Kimbrel (4-5) and Brian Anderson reached on a fielder's choice, advancing automatic runner Joey Wendle to third. Kimbrel then walked JJ Bleday to load the bases. Martin relieved Kimbrel and struck out Garrett Cooper and retired Jacob Stallings on a popout to first for his first save.

The score had been tied since the fifth, when Lewin Diaz hit an RBI single for Miami to make it 2-2.

Joey Wendle hit a leadoff double in the Miami first and later scored on Anderson's groundout to give the Marlins a 1-0 lead. The Dodgers jumped ahead in the third after Will Smith hit a two-run shot over the center field for his 19th home run of the season.

Angels 4, Yankees 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Aaron Judge hit his 50th home run of the season but Shohei Ohtani also went deep during their MVP showdown, and Los Angeles held off slumping New York.

Ohtani broke a 2-all tie in the fifth inning with his 29th homer, a two-run drive to right-center. Judge connected in the eighth for a 434-foot shot off reliever Ryan Tepera that made it 4-3.

New York, which leads the AL East by seven games over Tampa Bay, has lost three in a row — all on the road. The Angels, who have struggled mightily most of the season, have won four straight.

Frankie Montas (4-11), obtained in a trade with Oakland at the beginning of the

month, allowed three home runs — to Ohtani, Luis Rengifo and Mike Ford. He gave up four earned runs and eight hits in six innings.

Anthony Rizzo also connected for New York.

Blue Jays 5, Cubs 4, 11 innings

In Toronto, Danny Jansen hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning and singled home the winning run in the 11th as Toronto overcame a four-run deficit to beat Chicago.

Jansen connected off Erich Uelmen for his 11th homer, then won it with a base hit to left field against Mark Leiter Jr. (2-6) that scored Matt Chapman from second base and ended Toronto's three-game skid.

Toronto tied it 4-all in the eighth when Cavan Biggio hit a two-out double off Manuel Rodríguez and scored on Chapman's single.

The Cubs put runners at second and third with two outs in the top of the 11th but Yimi García (3-4) struck out P.J. Higgins.

George Springer went 0 for 5 for Toronto, ending his 12-game hitting streak.

Cardinals 13, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, St. Louis Cardinals slugger Albert Pujols tagged his major league record 450th different pitcher for a home run, connecting off Cincinnati left-hander Ross Detwiler.

Pujols hit his 694th home run overall. He had been tied with Barry Bonds for most pitchers as longball victims at 449. Bonds leads the all-time home run list with 762,

followed by Hank Aaron (755), Babe Ruth (714) and Alex Rodriguez (696).

Pujols' homer in the third inning gave the NL Central-leading Cardinals an 8-0 lead. Tyler O'Neill hit two home runs on a rainy night as the Cardinals moved a season-high 21 games over .500. He has homered in three of his last four games.

Chris Stratton (7-4) walked two and struck out two in 1 2/3 innings to get the win.

Chase Anderson (0-1) lasted 1 1/3 innings in his first major league appearance since Aug. 4, 2021. He gave up four hits and five runs with a walk and two strikeouts.

Brewers 7, Pirates 5

In Milwaukee, Garrett Mitchell hit a tying home run in the eighth inning and Keston Hiura connected for a game-ending shot in the ninth as Milwaukee rallied past Pittsburgh.

Hiura launched a two-run homer off reliever Wil Crowe (5-8) that bounced off the top of the left-field wall. Mitchell, starting his second game in the majors after being called up from Triple-A Nashville late last week, belted his first career homer, a two-run drive off Crowe with two outs in the eighth.

Devin Williams (6-3) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win. The Brewers, sitting just outside the NL wild-card picture, won their third straight and remained six games behind first-place St. Louis in the NL Central.

Milwaukee snapped a five-game losing streak to the Pi-

rates, who are last in the division at 48-80. Pittsburgh lost for 14th time in 17 games.

Twins 4, Red Sox 2

In Minneapolis, Gio Urshela's three-run double in the fifth inning pushed Minnesota ahead and four relievers made the lead for the Twins' fourth straight win.

Urshela punched a 3-2 pitch from John Schreiber into the right-field corner, scoring all three runners who had walked. AL batting leader Luis Arraez had two hits for Minnesota and scored on the double.

Caleb Thielbar (3-2) earned the win in relief of starter Dylan Bundy. Thielbar pitched 1 1/3 perfect innings after Bundy had allowed two runs in 4 2/3 innings. Thielbar, Joao Duran, Griffin Jax and Jorge López combined to allow just one baserunner in the final 4 1/3 innings. López finished for his 23rd save, fourth with Minnesota.

The Twins pulled within 1 1/2 games of idle Cleveland in the AL Central.

Brayan Bello (0-4) surrendered three runs in four-plus innings. His day was done after walking Arraez and Correa to start the fifth. The Red Sox lost for the sixth time in eight games. They started the day seven games back of the final wild-card spot in the AL.

Diamondbacks 13, Phillies 7

In Phoenix, Corbin Carroll hit a go-ahead, two-run double in his big league debut and Arizona climbed out of an early seven-run hole.

The Diamondbacks trailed 7-0 early in the game but rallied for six runs in the fourth and six more in the fifth for a 12-7 lead.

Carroll had the hit that pushed the D-backs ahead, breaking a 7-all tie in the fifth with a line drive into left-center that brought home Christian Walker and Emmanuel Rivera. Carson Kelly added two hits and four RBIs. Stone Garrett had a solo homer.

Arizona has won four straight. Philadelphia has dropped two in a row.

Phillies starter Ranger Suárez gave up no hits through three innings but couldn't get out of the fourth. He gave up six runs, but just two earned, over 3 2/3 innings. The bullpen couldn't stop the damage. Cristopher Sanchez (2-2) took the loss, giving up five earned runs while getting only two outs.

Luis Frias (1-0) got the win after 2 1/3 innings of scoreless relief.

NFL news dominates headlines, even during the offseason

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

NFL After one of the wildest offseasons in NFL history featuring blockbuster trades, rapid free-agency movement, record-setting contracts and plenty of off-field drama, the regular season is almost here.

Are you ready for some football?

The Buffalo Bills visit the defending Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams in two weeks to kick off the season in prime time.

If the action on the field matches the offseason excitement, it'll be a season for the ages.

NFL news dominated sports headlines throughout the spring and summer.

Tom Brady retired in February, returned in March, took an 11-day break from training camp in August and enters his third season with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers seeking his eighth Super Bowl ring at age 45.

Russell Wilson, Matt Ryan, Carson Wentz and Baker Mayfield were among the quarterbacks on the move. Tyreek Hill, Davante Adams, A.J. Brown and Amari Cooper led the list of star wide receivers who also were traded.

Deshaun Watson was dealt from Houston to Cleveland but the Browns will have to wait three months for the three-time Pro Bowl quarterback to make his debut. Watson must serve an 11-game suspension as part of a settlement with the NFL following accusations of sexual misconduct by two dozen women.

Former Dolphins coach Brian Flores filed a racial discrimination lawsuit against the league before the end of last season. Miami was penalized for tampering with Brady and coach Sean Payton, who stepped down after 15 seasons in New Orleans.

Dan Snyder's team got a new name — Commanders — and Washington's owner finally testified last month before a congressional committee investigating the team's history of workplace misconduct.

Those were the biggest stories that kept the NFL atop news cycles. Now, attention turns to playing the games and finding out who will hoist the Lombardi Trophy in Arizona in February.

The Rams, Buccaneers and Packers are the top three teams in the NFC, per FanDuel Sportsbook's Super Bowl odds. The Bills, Chiefs and Chargers are the top three betting favorites in the AFC.

Matthew Stafford and Sean McVay will try to become the first QB-coach duo to win con-



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady throws a pass during NFL football training camp, Thursday, July 28, 2022, in Tampa, Fla. AP

secutive Super Bowls since Brady and Bill Belichick did it in New England in 2003-04. The Rams, however, must replace seven starters, including Von Miller.

Brady's return gives Tampa a legitimate shot to win its second title in three years. But the Buccaneers suffered major losses on the offensive line in camp. Pro Bowl center Ryan Jensen and left guard Aaron Stinnie went down with significant knee injuries.

The Buccaneers also have a new coach. Bruce Arians retired and was replaced by defensive coordinator Todd Bowles.

"You either get the job done or you don't," Brady said. "There's only one team that is really happy at the end of the year and it is the team that wins."

The Packers gave Aaron Rodgers a three-year, \$150.8 million contract extension but lost Adams, leaving a major void on offense. Rodgers already criticized the team's young receivers, saying they need to be more consistent.

The Cowboys could emerge into a championship contender but Dallas will have a tough time holding off Philadelphia in the NFC East, which hasn't seen a repeat division winner since the Eagles won four titles in a row from 2001-04.

Josh Allen and the Bills are the odds-on favorites in a conference filled with competitive teams. Buffalo has to find a

Source: 49ers rework deal to keep Garoppolo as backup

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Jimmy Garoppolo is staying in San Francisco after agreeing to a reduced contract to be the backup to Trey Lance on the 49ers.

A person familiar with the deal said on condition of anonymity Monday that the sides are finalizing a deal to reduce Garoppolo's \$24.2 million base salary for 2022. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal hadn't been announced.

ESPN reported Garoppolo will receive a \$6.5 million fully guaranteed base salary, \$500,000 in roster bonuses and the chance to make nearly \$9 million more in playing time bonuses. The deal also includes a no-trade clause and prevents San Francisco from using the franchise tag on Garoppolo next offseason.

The Niners had been unable to find a trade partner for Garoppolo and were facing a deadline with rosters being cut to 53 players on Tuesday.

They were unwilling to keep Garoppolo as a backup at his full salary, and with no chances at a starting job on another team, the two sides found a compromise.

Garoppolo had not taken part in a single practice or meeting with the team this training camp, working out on the side on his own as he works his way back from off-season shoulder surgery.



San Francisco 49ers' Jimmy Garoppolo throws during the second half of the NFC Championship NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams, Jan. 30, 2022, in Inglewood, Calif. AP

But after spending the past five years in San Francisco, he should have little problem getting back up to speed on coach Kyle Shanahan's offense and he gives the Niners insurance if Lance struggles or gets hurt.

The other quarterbacks on the roster are seventh-round rookie Brock Purdy and Nate Sudfeld, who hasn't started a game in the NFL.

Garoppolo arrived in San Francisco with plenty of fanfare in 2017 when he was acquired from New England before the trade deadline in San Francisco's first season

under Shanahan and general manager John Lynch.

The Niners lost their first nine games that season and were 1-10 when Garoppolo took over as starter and led the team to five straight wins. That led San Francisco to give him a five-year, \$137.5 million contract that offseason.

But Garoppolo had a season-ending knee injury in the third game of the 2018 campaign and also missed 10 games with injuries in 2020. In the two seasons when he was mostly healthy, San Francisco had great success as a team even if Garoppolo had

way to get past its playoff failures after last season's collapse in Kansas City.

The Bills have the league's most talented roster, boasting a dynamic offense and a stingy defense. Winning in January is the biggest obstacle Buffalo has to overcome.

"Nothing we did last year is going to carry over to this year," Allen said.

Like the Packers, the Chiefs traded away their top receiver, sending Hill to Miami. But Patrick Mahomes still has Travis Kelce and other playmakers around him.

Kansas City's road through the AFC West has never been more challenging. The Chiefs have to go through Justin Herbert and the Chargers, Wilson and the Broncos and Derek Carr and the Raiders.

Meanwhile, don't count out the Bengals. They have to avoid the hangover that often plagues teams coming off a loss in the Super Bowl. If a retooled offensive line protects Joe Burrow, who was the most-sacked quarterback in the league last year, Cincinnati should be in the mix.

Eighteen weeks, 272 games and then playoffs.

Let's go.

limitations at quarterback.

San Francisco went 31-14 in his starts, while going just 8-28 with other quarterbacks under Shanahan. The Niners made it to the Super Bowl in the 2019 season and the NFC title game last season.

San Francisco had set in motion the plan to move on from Garoppolo before the 2021 season when the 49ers traded three first-round picks to draft Lance third overall. Lance spent most of his rookie season on the bench adjusting to the NFL but was put in the starting role at the start of the 2022 offseason program.

Lance has started just three games the past two seasons in college and the pros after starting for one season at lower-level North Dakota State in 2019.

Lance bring elements that were lacking with Garoppolo with the ability to run and a stronger arm that should open up the offense for more deep passes to talented receivers like Deebo Samuel and Brandon Aiyuk.

Garoppolo completed 67.7% of his passes in five seasons in San Francisco, averaging 8.4 yards per attempt with 66 TDs, 38 interceptions and a 98.3 passer rating. Garoppolo's strength was getting the ball to his playmakers in space and letting them make big plays after the catch.

POJC-bound netters raise \$4,300 in beach cleanup

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



In effort to help pay for the trip of the 17 CNMI junior netters that qualified for the 2022 Pacific Oceania Juniors Championships set for Lautoka, Fiji this September, the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association held a beach cleanup this past weekend and raised over \$4,000.

"Well done on a great beach cleanup effort everyone. It was really hot out there and you all managed to collect over 200 lbs of trash to clean up Marine Beach. We contributed about \$4,300 to our POJC funding. Fantastic!" said NMITA president and CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race.

The CNMI sports hall of famer also admitted that it's one of the most unusual beach cleanups NMITA has done, but they're glad to do it to raise airfare and associated cost to the regional tournament.

"I think that it was the most unusual beach cleanup that we've done. There was much less larger pieces of trash on the beach but so many small things. It actually made it more difficult," he added.

Race admitted though that the \$4,300 raised during the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI junior netters set to take part in the 2022 Pacific Oceania Juniors Championships and other volunteers hauled 200 lbs of trash during a cleanup of Marine Beach this past weekend.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The cleanup contributed about \$4,300 to NMITA's POJC funding.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race leads the start of the beach cleanup effort.

beach cleanup is just a drop in the bucket of what they need to finance their trip to Fiji.

"We need over \$55,000 to make the trip with 17 players and two adults."

A total of 17 CNMI bets made the cut in the 2022 POJC and they include boys 16 and under's Minsoo "David" Kwon, girls 16's Serin Chung and Savita Sikkell, boys 14's La Hunn Lam, Nason Wessel, Henry Choi, and Siwoo Lee, girls 14's Hoo Wang, Hannah Chae, and Anna Kwon, boys 12's Yutaka Kadokura, Ian Chae, Ryan Choi, and Jihun Park, girls 12's Lina Tsukagoshi, and wildcard entries Irin Chung and June Yu.

Of the 17, Serin Chung and Lam went all the way to win the championships of their respective age groups.

After an absence of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 19 junior netters from the Northern Marianas saw action in the 2022 North Pacific Regional Championships. They duked it out against 16 players from Guam, six players from the Federated States of Micronesia, and five players from Palau.

SHANE

From Page 20

able to overtake him on the big double on the first lap but I made a slight error two turns later and almost slid out, luckily I was able to keep the bike up and work for the pass again and get him on the second lap," he said.

After that, the younger Alvarez pushed as hard as he could to try and inch away from the hard-charging Cuki.

"He was right on my tail for a while and had me work-

ing the whole race to keep the lead. On the second heat he got the lead once again and I was right behind him again so I knew I had to get again quick as it's easier to block than to pass so out the first turn I blasted side by side with him to the first jump and was able to get him there and it was grind time with him right behind me again putting the pressure! I was feeling really good and hitting all my lines but I could hear him right behind me waiting for me to make a mistake for a little more than half the race."

youngest as well."

"During the tournament we displayed great work of communication and teamwork which [led] us to the championship. It was a hard fought game against Team Yolo for the championship and we ended up falling short in the first game. At the start of the second game our team displayed hard work, chemistry, and bombing multiple shots from behind the arc. Without the teamwork and chemistry our squad has I don't think we would have made it as far as we did," said Aldan about his team's performance.

Garcia, who sank in the most shots for the champions, said about the finals that their team "knew what we needed to do. We were outnumbered and the size difference was going to be a challenge. We made sure to make our shots

Fortunately, Shane was steadier down the stretch as he held on against a lurking Cuki to win the August race.

"I knew if I kept up the pace he'd have a hard time keeping up because of the rocks and dirt blocking his view and him having to take different lines than me. I just kept pushing and slowly crept away from him and from there I just stayed smart so I could secure the win! Was a really fun race! Sadly my brother wasn't able to race with us as he got injured in training. He's also really fast and it's

always us three battling with each other up front. I guess I had less pressure coming into the race knowing I didn't have to worry about battling with him," he said.

For Cuki losing to one of his sons again is bittersweet.

"This win for him is very impressive considering the fact that he literally was off the bike for almost four months. He snuck in a couple practice sessions a week before the race, but wasn't actually at 100% race-ready simply due to lack of riding time. But he managed to put all that aside and once the green flag dropped his adrenaline and experience took over and he

rode like he never took time off. Youthful exuberance you can call it. And of course his competitive nature," he said.

In the Novice Class, Aric Cruz won with the slimmest of margins with 44 points, followed by the 43 points of Ethan Yumul. Joseph Santos took third with 40 points.

Corry Pangelinan ruled the Intermediate Class with 50 points with Tristan Sablan and Henry Camacho Jr. taking second and third with 44 points and 38 points, respectively.

The results of the rest of the classes in the Marianas Racing Association-organized race will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

BENCH

From Page 20

However, in the final and deciding game, youth trumped over experience as the Bench Buddies shut down Yolo, 21-17. Garcia put up the most points and had 12 big ones for Bench Buddies, while teammate Leo Naraja, sharpshooter from the U18 team champions Net Ripper, brought his best yet again and scored 7 points. Ervin Villarin came up with 2 points for the team.

Bench Buddies' team captain, 17-year-old Kagman High School senior Kyu Aldan, who sat on the bench in the final game, told *Saipan Tribune* that in the beginning of the tournament, he saw their team as the "underdogs" and that they "were not only the smallest team but the

play the way we wanted to. They were getting most of their points down in the post but we made sure to maintain the lead through our 3-point shooting...It was a great feeling after securing the championship...It felt good being able to help my team after not being able to play during the first day."

When asked what's next for the up-and-coming basketball stars, Aldan said that they are all looking forward to participating in the Marianas Village Tournament in September.

Lastly, Aldan thanked "coach Joe Diaz, coach Mike Mercado, and coach Dave Apatang. They have all been part of the journey and they are the reasons we are the players we are today. And a big thank you to the fans and family who came out to watch us play!"

HAGU

From Page 20

and scored in a run for his only RBI of the game to put them up 1-0.

In the third inning, a two-run home run resounded from the bat of Asahi's Darwin Masaharu, to bring the game 2-1, but it just wasn't enough when in the fourth inning, Hagu La'mun's pitcher, who is as handy with the bat as he is with the ball, retaliated with a home run to score in three runs and put them up 4-2.

After the burst of energy, silence reigned for two more innings as the bats quieted down in the fifth and sixth, with the seventh still anybody's game.

Edgar Ito of the Asahi blast-

ed a home run in the seventh to put them up 3-4, but it just wasn't enough when the Hagu La'mun's Richard Quitugua fired a home run and came up with three more runs to end the game, 7-3.

In the game Asahi's Darwin Masaharu had three at-bats, with two hits, one home run, and two RBI's. Teammate Edgar Ito had three at-bats, one home run, and one RBI. While in the defensive side, Asahi's pitcher struck out four Hagu La'mun batters.

In the winning team's lineup, Hagu La'mun pitcher Joe Celis blasted off three RBIs in three at-bats, with one home run, while Richard Quitugua brought in three RBIs and one home run as well.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	78	51	.605	
Tampa Bay	70	57	.551	7
Toronto	69	58	.543	8
Baltimore	67	60	.528	10
Boston	62	67	.481	16

Central Division

Cleveland	67	59	.532	
Minnesota	66	61	.520	1½
Chicago	63	65	.492	5
Kansas City	52	77	.403	16½
Detroit	50	78	.391	18

West Division

Houston	82	47	.636	
Seattle	70	58	.547	11½
Texas	58	69	.457	23
Los Angeles	56	73	.434	26
Oakland	48	81	.372	34

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	82	47	.636	
Atlanta	79	50	.612	3
Philadelphia	72	57	.558	10
Miami	55	73	.430	26½
Washington	43	85	.336	38½

Central Division

St. Louis	75	54	.581	
Milwaukee	68	59	.535	6
Chicago	55	74	.426	20
Cincinnati	50	77	.394	24
Pittsburgh	48	80	.375	26½

West Division

Los Angeles	89	38	.701	
San Diego	71	59	.546	19½
San Francisco	61	66	.480	28
Arizona	60	67	.472	29
Colorado	55	74	.426	35

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Drury homers,
drives in 3 as
Padres hold off
Giants 6-5
PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

POJC-bound
netters raise
\$4,300 in beach
cleanup
PAGE 19



20 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



LAO ZHANG

Shane Alvarez in action in the Expert Open Class of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

Shane returns to winning form

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Shane Alvarez shrugged off months of inactivity to win the Expert Open Class of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

Alvarez, who was involved in a minor accident a couple of months back, beat his father, Cuki, and El-lery Cruz for



both heats for 44 points, while Cruz completed the Top 3 with 40 points.

"It was definitely a great and awesome race day at Cowtown on Sunday! Good battles

all around in every class! I was really amped and pumped up to end the season strong after missing the last race and the race before that due to vacation and traveling to Australia for the fight there."

It became more sweet beating longtime motocross veteran and Alvarez patriarch, Cuki.

"I was focused and motivated to give my best and end this season on a high note! My dad got the holeshot on both heats and I knew I had to get him right away if I wanted to win. On the first heat I was

See SHANE on Page 19

Hagu La'mun edges Asahi, 7-3

By LEIGH GASES
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Hagu La'mun bounced back from their loss a week prior and managed to edge

out Asahi, 7-3, in last Sunday's men's division game of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League at the Dandan Soft-



LEIGH GASES

Hagu La'mun's pitcher John Acosta catches a pop-up made by an Asahi batter and looks to his defense during their 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League game last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

ball Field.

With this win, Hagu La'mun is 4-3 in the standings, while Asahi is at 3-4.

It was a battle between pitchers as Asahi's Dominic Hideo silenced their opponents' bats early on in the first inning, after putting out three of four batters and striking out two. Asahi's offense were shut down as well in the first three innings, after coming up with goose eggs against Hagu La'mun's pitcher John Acosta.

When it seemed like no one was able to score yet during the pitching duel, in the second inning, Joe Celis of Hagu La'mun broke through

See HAGU on Page 19

Bench Buddies tops men's 3x3

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Bench Buddies bounced back in the second game against Team Yolo to top the men's open division, 21-17, of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Three vs Three Hoop Fest Tournament held over the weekend at the Gillette Multipurpose



Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

It was a 12-team double elimination format and coming off the loser's bracket, Yolo had to win twice against the Bench Buddies to steal the division title.

However, 17-year-old senior from Saipan Southern High School Eli Garcia and company bounced back from their first game loss and took

the championship trophy out of Team Yolo's grasp.

In the first game, carrying the momentum from their win against the Rollers in the semis, Yolo's Shane Deleon Guerrero dominated the court, scoring 15 of their team's 21 points. It was enough to shut down the Bench Buddies and hold them down 12 points, to win 21-12.

See BENCH on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bench Buddie's Lucio Aldan, Ervin Villarin, Leo Naraja, and Eli Garcia poses with Northern Marianas Basketball Federation vice president David John Apatang and board member Mike Mercado.